

THE
FARMER'S
DAUGHTER
OF
ESSEX.

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and Agnes, Aldersgate.

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THE
FARMER'S
DAUGHTER

ESSAYS



P R E F A C E.

O FIE! a novel, and a
 parson the author!
 What a contrast! A sermon,
 reverend sir, would have
 been more in character.
 Right: but who would have
 read it? Why, in faith, not
 I: and no lady, I believe,
 who plays at quadrille, nor
 any

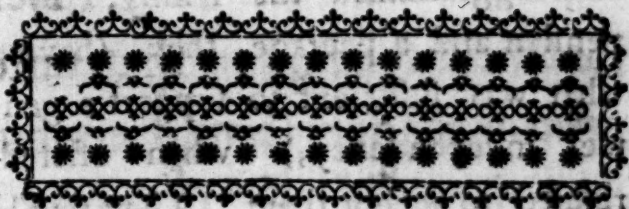
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any gentleman, who keeps an equipage. Such sleepy draughts are proper to be administered to the vulgar, who need opiates to make them forget their distress and misery. This earth is our paradise, and, whatever you divines say to the contrary, we will enjoy it; for the next world, we will e'en run the venture with you. Our parish priest is indefatigable, he preaches three times every Sunday,

Sunday, and makes nothing of it. What a multitude of useless sermons to be met with, and exceeding cheap, at every alehouse bench! And the subjects treated of, like the ten commandments, quite old, and obsolete. No sermons for me. An opera, a play, or a novel, is the reigning taste of the present age, and indeed of mine; nothing else can please. As the writer therefore

fore of the following sheets
hath conformed to that taste,
if the reader should censure
the parson, it is humbly
hoped, he will excuse the
author, his intention being
both to entertain and im-
prove.

THE
is the reigning taste of the
age, and indeed of
nothing else can
As the writer there-
fore



T H E
Farmer's Daughter.


 R. S. D. my father, was
 descended from an ancient
 and respectable family in
 the county of Essex; distinguished,
 for many centuries, both in the military
 and literary world. Their zeal in
 parliament, for the liberty of the sub-
 ject, had been conspicuous; merito-
 rious, because disinterested; for, though

B

they

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they might have enriched themselves, and aggrandized the family, by a pension and a peerage, they, (having what was sufficient to support a genteel independency,) when offered, refused to accept them. They sought none other emolument from their public services, than the approbation of their constituents, and to merit the applause of the virtuous few: they did not serve their country by exclaiming, right or wrong, against ministers, and ministerial measures, (notoriously infamous in these times) for the more easy and expeditious way of introducing themselves at court, and being themselves every thing, that was, before, the subject of their censure and declamation. The family was not less eminent for their military capacity and abilities,

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abilities, being equally brave and humane: by their valour they acquired the esteem of their superiors, and for their tender care of, and mild behaviour to, those under their command, they were beloved by their inferiors. Of this family it might be truly said, That all the male issue was wise and valiant, and all the female fair and virtuous: my uncle indeed was a dishonour to the one, and I, unfortunately, a disgrace to the other.

My grandfather, dying young, left the care of the widow and her two orphans to his brother, a worthy and ingenious clergyman; to whose house, when decency permitted, my grandmother retired, to receive consolation in her present distress, and for the be-

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nefit of the education of her children. My uncle was of a churlish and morose disposition, and, being heir to the estate, had an aversion to learning. Had he been taught, that he had none other dependence for his future subsistence, than what his personal merit should procure, and his advancement and happiness in life would be the result of a close attention and application to his studies, he might have proved deserving of the estate, and been, like to his ancestors, an ornament to society, and an honour to his family.

It is much to be lamented, that the heirs to great estates know themselves so to be, before they are capable of managing them; by which means
they

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they generally mortgage, if not consume them, before they are sensible of their real value; and find themselves, in a short time, poorer for the possession, than they would have been for the want of them. Labour and study they leave for others, looking upon themselves to be made solely for the enjoyments and pleasures of life.

It is an ancient saying amongst the Jews, That the parent, who brings not up his son to some profession, or trade, brings him up to the gallows: a saying that hath been frequently verified in the fools of fortune, who, by their actions, have been candidates for, and richly deserved, though, by their wealth and interest, they have

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escaped it. How many persons of genius and ability, have confined their scene of action, to the knowledge and breeding of dogs and horses, to gaming, drinking, and wenching, who, had they been kept in ignorance of their fortune, with a suitable education, might have been of eminent service to their country, in the field, or cabinet.

My uncle had none other qualifications to render him worthy of inheriting the family estate, than what were derived from his bottle and his gun. Qualifications very conspicuous in many of the country gentlemen, whose intemperate and debauched lives, are of infinite mischief and hurt to morality and religion. For
who

who is ashamed of imitating his superior? What rustick looks upon it a sin, to be as drunk as his 'squire, or as lewd as his lord? What encouragement to chastity and temperance, when they, who should set the example, are the patrons of licentiousness? Can it be expected, that religion should have any respect shewn it by the clown, when his landlord neither attends its service, nor practises its duties? The parson may preach for ever, without making one convert, so long as the head of his parish continues dissolute; he may rail against fornication and drunkenness, but the poor will not believe them to be such enormous sins, whilst their master, who is supposed to be of superior understanding to the parson, because

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because his superior in fortune, openly practises them. These are the persons, who, by their bad example, have corrupted the villagers in most counties; so that it is now as difficult to procure a sober, modest, and industrious servant out of the country, as it was, not half a century ago, to find one of a different character in it.

My grandmother dying, soon after my uncle came of age, whom he had treated, from his childhood, with the greatest disrespect and indifference, on account of her just reproofs for his bad conduct, which contributed much to hasten her death, he became possessed of the whole estate. No sooner was the funeral over, but he
went

went post to London, and took a house at the court end of the town, which he elegantly furnished, set up his equipage, and lived in a gay and splendid manner. He soon fell into the fashionable vices of the town, and was generally engaged in some act of intemperances or debauchery. He frequented the tables at Arthur's and White's, where, being a novice, and having plenty of cash, and little wit, he was quickly observed by, and became an easy prey to, a set of genteel sharpers, whom, for the sake of play, (to their shame be it spoken,) their superiors freely admit into their company.

He now commenced the libertine, and was, on that account, esteemed the

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the accomplished gentleman. In the summer season, he usually made a visit to the manor-house, and defiled a place, which had been ever held sacred to chastity and temperance, with his drunken and debauched companions, whom he brought with him from town. In one of the scenes of riot, he was drawn in to promise marriage to an infamous prostitute, which the next day, stupified with intemperance, he performed. This deed filled up the measure of his follies, and brought him to an immature death. His marriage (which may be easily supposed) did not lessen, but increase, his licentiousness; he was led into every excess by his wife, and he became abandoned to all manner of wickedness, no sin escaping him. She, fortunately for
my

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my father, died within a few months after the nuptials. My uncle, continuing his vicious course, was, within the year after her death, seized with a violent fever, which terminated an infamous and inglorious life, just as he was going to mortgage the remainder of the family estate.

My father, who succeeded to the estate, had the advantage of a good education, under his uncle the clergyman, who took a pleasure in cultivating and improving the natural parts of his nephew. After having gone through the necessary forms of education, he was sent to one of the universities, to complete his studies, where, by his sober and studious behaviour, he acquired the esteem of his superiors, and

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and was assured of a fellowship. After seven years residence, he was obliged to quit the university, his brother dying, and to commence farmer, the portion left him, through his brother's profligacy, being small, though admitting of improvement.

It was not long, after he had been settled in his farm, - before he was married to a clergyman's daughter in the neighbourhood, the agreeable miss B—, not more amiable for the beauty of her person, than the accomplishments of her mind. His acquaintance with her was early, from visiting the family; the friendship begun in youth, love perfected. There was no difficulty in obtaining the consent of the parents, who had beheld with
pleasure

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pleasure the intimacy between them, and rejoiced at the happy union. Within two years after the marriage, my mother's parents died.

The consequence of matrimony was a numerous offspring, who were brought up in a genteel and useful manner. The liberal education of our father, and a small, but well chosen library, were advantages, that few in our station of life are blessed with. Our parents were more solicitous to improve and refine the understanding, than to adorn and set off the person; knowing that the latter only rendered us pleasing and agreeable to others, but the former would prove a real and permanent benefit to ourselves. We were taught how to manage a family,

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before

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before we became mistress of one, and to be able to give to, not receive instructions from, servants. We read every evening such books, as made us wiser and better, and were not permitted any, that had a tendency to corrupt and debauch our morals, however amusing and entertaining.

How unlike this conduct to the prevailing method of educating youth, by which the sex, weak in nature, not capacity, is made weaker by the parents neglect of the culture of the mind, to give a gracefulness to the person. This grand error is principally owing to the vanity of the age, in which gaiety in dress passes for merit, and a genteel carriage is taken for good sense. The accomplishments laboured
after

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after are those of the agreeable, not the useful, which serve to adorn and ornament the person, not refine and polish the manners. Accomplishments these, which will diminish and exhaust, not increase, nor preserve, a fortune. The so much admired elegance of taste and dress, after marriage, is found to be empty and extravagant; and a state, designed by providence, and by the parties proposed, to be a blessing, proves a curse, and terminates, as many families have unhappily experienced, in discontent, poverty, and aversion.

How often are the fortune and private happiness of a family sacrificed to support the pride of one, who hath nothing but a pretty face to recommend

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her, whilst the possessor of real merit and substantial worth is neglected, often despised. To aggrandize the former, the rest of the children must be contented with a slender portion, if not reduced to the necessity of acquiring by labour and service, what they had a right to expect by inheritance.

It was different in our family; we lived, we loved, as brethren should, but as few brethren do. The only preference given, by our parents, was to those, who behaved the best. I, who was by much the handsomest of their daughters, had not any peculiar respect shewn me; neither did I set any value upon my beauty, or treated my sisters with the least disdain for that superiority

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superiority of nature, and my dress was, the same with theirs, plain and neat. When any person (which frequently happened) commended my beauty, my father's usual reply was, " She is a good girl, and that is her merit: her goodness may last for ever, but every day diminishes something of the value of beauty; the comeliness of the most amiable and engaging form, like the rose, soon goes off, and decays. A few years, said he, change the aspect and features, so that, like to an ancient city in ruins, little will remain to shew, what was the glory and pride of its inhabitants. Its existence, like to certain animals, is but for a day; it is an object fit only to entertain the sight, and the pleasure

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“ sure it affords, is like to those ima-
“ ginary and momentary joys exhi-
“ bited in dreams, which, when
“ awake, end either in disappoint-
“ ment, or false satisfaction. The
“ virtues of the soul are only amiable
“ and lasting, and from which she is
“ to expect any real and solid good.”
Such sayings were common with my
father, and which were of singular use,
since it taught us to found our merit,
not upon any advantages of nature and
person, but to what alone, though sel-
dom, it is to be justly attributed,
“ The virtuous endowments of the
“ mind.”

We lived in the greatest harmony and
love, every one happy, till the fatal
day, when I, with my brothers and
sisters,

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sisters, as usual, went to a neighbouring wake. Here we met with Mr. S—; who, in passing through the village, alighted from his horse, and joined with us in the rural pastime of singing and dancing. He fixed his eyes upon me, and courted my esteem, by endeavouring to please, and presenting me with several little trinkets. His civility was received with proper acknowledgment, and I was far from suspecting any base design, where only innocent freedoms were taken. He talked much, and privately, with my eldest brother, to learn from him, as I afterwards understood, who I was, what my station, family, name, and place of abode.

“ Mr.

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“ Mr. S. was a gentleman possessed
“ of many natural advantages, im-
“ proved by education and travel; his
“ judgment was sound, penetration
“ acute, address polite, person amia-
“ ble, and wit engaging: so that it
“ was impossible to be in his compa-
“ ny, and not for the one sex to
“ esteem, and the other to admire
“ him. Under these excellencies, how-
“ ever, was a base heart; under this
“ heavenly form, great villainies were
“ concealed. By warmly commending
“ what he practised not, he was judged
“ to be, what he was not. Represent
“ to yourself what the most pious and
“ godly is, such he appeared to be;
“ enquire what the most profligate and
“ abandoned are, such he really was.
“ He was thoroughly versed in in-
“ trigues,

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“trigues, and too well knew what
“would please, allure, and captivate
“our sex. He searched into their
“foibles, then attacked, and seldom
“failed of accomplishing his designs
“upon their virtue.”

Some few days after the wake was over, my father received the following letter.

“Sir,

“In passing through the village of
“M. at the time of their wake, I was
“agreeably surpris'd at the sight of
“your eldest daughter, whose person
“and conversation charmed and cap-
“tivated me. She is, Sir, a fortune
“in herself; she wants none other
“portion, than nature hath bestowed,
and

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“ and you have improved. If you
“ should deem me respectable enough
“ to be allied to so worthy a family,
“ by permitting my addressee to the
“ young lady, you will promote the
“ happiness of him, who hopes to
“ subscribe himself,

“ Your affectionate son,

May 14.

“ T. S.”

This letter was received by my father, and read to me, with surprise and astonishment. It was then I felt something like love, some soft emotions rising in my breast. My father looked at me, expecting an answer, being an entire stranger to the affair of the wake. I, at that instant, recollecting
some

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some tender expressions dropt, and his polite behaviour, replied by a blush, which seemed to ask the permission of a visit. My father, observing my confusion, (which, though I laboured, I was unable to conceal,) instead of a severe rebuke, which I apprehended, said, “ I hope, child, you have
“ not been guilty of an indiscre-
“ tion in countenancing a stranger,
“ who may, upon enquiry, prove un-
“ worthy of your affections. If he
“ hath virtue enough, whatever his
“ wealth and power are, which are
“ no considerations with me, my con-
“ sent, if you are desirous of having
“ it, will follow, since your happiness
“ will be an addition to my own.” I answered, taking courage, upon so mild and generous an address, “ Your
“ pleasure,

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“ pleasure, Sir, is mine, and I sub-
“ mit myself entirely to your will,
“ since I am fully persuaded, that as
“ you are always ready to indulge me
“ in all things lawful, so you will not
“ oppose my desire in any thing,
“ but what you imagine, may prove
“ hurtful and injurious to me.”

My father, after consulting my mother, and understanding who the gentleman was, returned the following answer :

“ Sir,
“ I am obliged to you for the kind
“ sentiments expressed in your letter
“ of the 14th instant. The alliance
“ proposed is not, I think, consistent
“ with your honour and interest. How
“ would

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“ would her obscurity, and your emi-
“ nence; her poverty, and your
“ wealth; her simplicity, and your
“ grandeur agree? She hath none
“ other portion, than her virtue; of
“ small account in an age of licentious-
“ nefs. You will find it difficult to
“ withstand the raillery of your ac-
“ quaintance, and the censure of your
“ friends, for marrying a plain country
“ girl; when, by reason of your birth
“ and station in life, you might have
“ easily acquired a lady of beauty,
“ understanding, and fortune. Permit
“ me to request you, to think no more
“ of her, and to place your affections,
“ where they will be more agreeable

D

“ to

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“ to your friends, and, in the end,
“ most desirable by yourself.

“ Your humble servant,

May 17.

“ S. D.”

How many would have readily given admittance to the writer of the letter, and thought an alliance to a person of Mr. S—'s fortune and distinction an honour! Parents are presumed to act for the good of their children, yet it oftentimes happens, that they dispose of them in marriage, to ennoble and aggrandize their family, to persons, for whom they have no affection, hardly a decent respect, if not an entire dislike, and aversion. What real good
to

to the parent to have the family enriched and ennobled, if these things are to be purchased at the expence of the children's ease, and happiness? What are grandeur, pomp, wealth, and power, if there is no inward satisfaction? What are public appearances and esteem, if they are succeeded by domestic strife and variance? How much happier those, who, if poor, are content; if the world frowns upon them abroad, unaffected cheerfulness reigns at home; who forget the cares and troubles of life in innocent mirth and festivity.

Though my father's estate was small, his virtues were great; he esteemed no one the better than another for his wealth, or his power, too often the portion of fools and knaves, but for

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the goodness of his actions. The honest man, cloathed in rags, was more his admiration, than vice decked in embroidery, which he held in the utmost detestation. Respect and deference, in his opinion, belonged, of right, only to the man of strict probity and integrity, and the more distinguished by fortune and birth, the greater was the obligation to excel others in virtue and goodness.

Some few days having passed, Mr. S— sent his servant, with the following letter, to my father :

“ Sir,

“ I received the favour of yours.

“ The goods of fortune have been

“ ever held, in my judgment, of the

“ lowest

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“ lowest estimation. The excellencies
“ of the mind, rare to be met with in
“ any condition of life, made me the
“ lover. If so happy to engage the
“ young lady's affections, and to pro-
“ cure the parents consent, my beha-
“ viour will convince you, how little I
“ shall regard the censure of my rela-
“ tions, and with what indifference I
“ shall treat the raillery of my ac-
“ quaintance. I wait your answer at
“ the end of the lane.

“ Your most obedient

“ servant,

May 22.

“ T. S.—”

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After

After some private discourse had with my mother, my father went out, invited, and conducted him in. The usual compliments being over, the conversation turned upon me. My father began, " Though, sir, by the
 " stile of your letter and appearance,
 " you are the gentleman, you will
 " allow it to be both prudent and discreet in the parent, before he gives
 " his consent, in a matter of such interesting importance to the future
 " welfare and happiness of his child,
 " since you have but lately come into
 " these parts, to know, who you are,
 " what your family and connections,
 " and, what is of more consequence
 " than either, where is your particular
 " residence in town, that I may make
 " the

“ the necessary enquiry into your
“ character. My satisfaction in this
“ particular will compensate for any
“ deficiency in the others, and with-
“ out it, however wealthy and power-
“ ful, your application will be fruitless,
“ and you must desist from any farther
“ visits.

• Mr. S— modestly replied, “ Your
“ requests, sir, are prudent and just,
“ and it will be a pleasure to me to give
“ you the satisfaction wanted, which,
“ I flatter myself, after the most strict
“ enquiry, you will receive. Our
“ family have been knights of the
“ shire for Somersetshire for many
“ years; I am the only son and heir to
“ their vast estate; we are connected,
“ by marriages, with the best families
“ in

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“ in the kingdom, and my residence is
“ in Grosvenor-square.”

My father took down the answer in writing, saying, that he had some knowledge of the family, he had mentioned, by reading, but impostors being frequent, he must excuse him, if he doubted. If he should prove to be the person, he declared himself, he might have free access to his house, upon the honourable terms he had mentioned, of which he should have the earliest notice. Mr. S. entirely approved of these proceedings, desiring my father that he would be expeditious in his enquiry; which he promised.

Dinner being ready, Mr. S— would have retired, but my father insisted upon

upon his staying. Nothing relative to our affair passed at table, excepting a few tender looks, and modest blushes. After dinner the conversation was concerning the degeneracy and profligacy of the times, of the luxury of the great, the pride of the middling people, and the extreme distress of the poor; that every one aimed at appearances above their condition, and vied with their superiors in folly and extravagance; that distinction was confounded, a peeress was not to be known from a draper's wife, nor a lord from a haberdasher of hats, but by their address. The consequence, said Mr. S— is apprehended will be a dissolution of order, and a general licentiousness of manners. Your observations, replied my father to Mr. S—, are very just, and

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and it may be said, without the least imputation of enthusiasm, that the present age is prosperous and flourishing, and its conduct not very wise, nor its morals very good. I fear, if a reformation doth not soon take place, the poor will be starved, the middling people bankrupts, and the great needy pensioners: it is an affair that deserves the consideration of the legislature.

Alas! Sir, replied Mr. S—, the great are wholly engaged in procuring places and pensions, they have no leisure to attend to other matters. Their continual jealousies and animosities prevent the union, so necessary, to redress the evils, the public labours under, and to correct the manners of the times. It is true, indeed, that there is a cry
of

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of public spirit, but private interest is the view. Let a place, or pension, be offered them, then the noise ceases, and the spirit vanishes away. When they refuse the proffered bribe, it doth not proceed from a regard, the usual pretence, for their country, but the thing offered is not considerable enough; bid up to the price, and all will come in. The most effectual way of silencing the mouthing patriots, is to find out their foibles, which, when discovered, there are, you well know, Sir, various departments in the state, to please and satisfy all. If every thing else fails, a peerage, with a reversionary grant, to enable the booby heir to live up to the dignity of his title, is a fine temptation, and a great acquisition, for a plain country gentleman, who
will

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will allow it to be far more preferable to be admitted into the council of his prince, than to be at the head, or the admiration, of a rustic mob. This, Sir, is the cause and end of patriotism, for few are to be found, who live and die patriots, acting only from a pure disinterested zeal for the public good. Their services to their country are, like their necessities, temporary; they mean not to benefit the constitution, but themselves; they merit not even the applause of their own times, they are talked of for a little while, they die, and their memory perishes with them.

There is another sort of public-spirited gentlemen, ridiculous, not mischievous; whose knowledge is collected
from

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from the froth and scum of newspapers, taverns, and coffee-houses; these are reputable tradesmen, and wholesale dealers. This gentry is very free and liberal in their censures and invectives against placemen and pensioners; not from a desire of displacing and succeeding them, (no, they are conscious of their want of ability and desert,) but to appear wise and knowing to their country customers and servants, to make a figure before the polite and well-bred mechanics at a common-council-man's feast, or the mixed multitude on the lord-mayor's day. These men treat their sovereign as they do their apprentices, the officers of state like their journeymen, and the members of parliament like their shopmen and porters. Of

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such

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such a nature and temper is their public spirit.

When these men, said my father, talk of wrong and false measures from above, they should take heed to give just and good measure at home. When, with a sorrowful countenance, they declaim concerning the distresses of the poor, let them avoid oppression to individuals. When they bitterly exclaim against the pride and luxury of the great, let them not be extravagant and intemperate in themselves. A lecture of sobriety from a drunkard; of modesty, from a debauchee; of industry, from a gamester, will make few converts. They would do better to mind their own business, keeping on their board, attending their customers

mers behind the counter, and mending their own manners, than attempt a task, so unequal to their puny understandings, as that of reforming the state.

Your remarks, said Mr. S—, are right. These politicians, in my opinion, are like to hypocrites in religion, who, from the mere exclaiming against vice, and commending virtue, think to acquire to themselves the reputation of being more virtuous, and less vicious, than their neighbours. Here ended the conversation, it growing late.

My father was highly pleased and entertained with the sensible reflections of Mr. S—, who took his leave of the

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family, with a promise of a return, after the enquiry. When he was gone, the whole family spoke greatly in favour of Mr. S—, not one was silent in his praise; and they generously concurred with me, in pressing my father to set out for London the next day, which he, ever ready to oblige his family, did.

If my father was pleased before at the understanding of Mr. S—, he was now charmed at the amiableness of his character. So far from being a bad man, that he was free, even from the suspicions of guilt. For his exemplary life he was in high esteem with the rich; beloved by the poor, whom he often and liberally relieved; and the tradesmen, in the neighbourhood, bestowed on him the
greatest

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greatest encomiums for his punctuality and regularity in his payments. But, alas! all this was hypocrisy, (too much the religion of the times) a mere shew of goodness: he was, what is called, a private sinner. In places the most distant from his dwelling-house, not visited by any of his acquaintance, and secrecy certain, he gave a loose to his desires, and no one so debauched and intemperate, as my father, too late for me, discovered.

Rejoicing at the agreeable intelligence, my father hastened into the country. No sooner did he arrive, but he wrote the following letter to Mr. S—.

Upon the receipt of this letter, Mr. S— came early the next morning, and continued

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Sir,

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" Sir,

" I am just returned from town,
" where I have received the satisfac-
" tion required. If you continue, in
" the same mind, as, from your cha-
" racter, I am convinced of your
" intention being honourable, you are
" permitted to renew, and continue,
" your visits, and if you can engage
" the affections of the daughter, you
" may rest assured of the father's con-
" sent.

" Your humble servant,

June 1.

" S. D."

Upon the receipt of this letter, Mr.
S— came early the next morning, and
continued

continued his visits daily, and was considered as one of the family. We were frequently alone, when he would entertain me with discourses of the sincerity of his passion; he seemed to speak the language of his heart. His behaviour was modest, never uttering an indecent expression, nor offering any rudeness, notwithstanding our freedom, and familiarity. He exclaimed with great warmth and indignation against those villains, who, taking an advantage of the weakness of our sex, by promises of never ceasing love, steal their affections, deceive them, and, having deprived them of their virtue, leave them to infamy and disease. Such conversation was extremely agreeable, and confirmed me in my opinion
of

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of Mr. S—'s virtue, and his love for me.

After a few weeks visiting, in this manner, the sister of Mr. S— came into the country to see him; in appearance a modest, sensible, and discreet young lady, very agreeable and entertaining in her conversation. There needed no apology for introducing her to the family, so amiable a person could not fail of being acceptable. Her temper was so free and easy, that she soon gained my confidence, and I communicated to her, without the least reserve, the secrets of my soul, and the excessive passion I had for her brother; little imagining, that I cherished a viper in my bosom, and under the mask of friendship my ruin was to be accomplished.

complished. About a fortnight after her coming, the marriage was fixed, and great preparations were making, for the solemnization. Mr. S—, in the mean time, was setting out on a journey into Somersetsshire, to pay a visit to his friends and relations, and to communicate his intended nuptials. The day before he set out, he rode over to my father's, and intreated him to permit me to be with his sister, till his return, which would be with the utmost expedition. The request, being reasonable, was granted.

The next morning Mr. S—, seemingly, with the greatest reluctance, the most sincere expressions of his affection, and the most tender embraces, (which lovers, who are used to deceive, abound

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abound with) took his leave, and proceeded on his journey. His departure gave me no small concern, for though his love was base and designing, mine was chaste and honest. His sister was not wanting in words of consolation, saying “ How unfortunate it “ was, that so loving a pair should suf- “ fer the uneasiness of a moment’s se- “ paration, and”—Here she was stopt, by the sudden and unexpected return of Mr. S—, in a post-chaise, who had been thrown from his horse, and much bruised, and wounded. The sight of his blood, terribly frightened me, and, like one frantick, I ran, not knowing what I did, into his arms, and clasping him round, cried in the most affectionate manner, “ How is my dear? Say, “ how happened this misfortune? What “ is

“ is your hurt ? Where is your pain ? ”
 He replied, “ Infolded in these arms,
 “ I feel, my love, no pain ; this preci-
 “ ous balm, [saluting me,] will soon
 “ recover me, and heal my wounds.

He was immediately put into bed, and an express was dispatched to my father, to acquaint him of this melancholy accident ; which, when related, affected the whole family with the deepest concern. In the interim, the surgeon, who had been sent for, (a servant of Mr. S—'s, a pander to his infamous lust, dressed like one of the profession) came, and, after having examined him, pronounced him, (a most joyful hearing) out of danger, but ordered him to be kept still, for fear of a fever.

When

When my father came, after some words of condolance passed, I requested that I might stay to assist Mr. S—'s sister, in the recovery of her brother's health, and of a person so dear and valuable to me, and to our family. The request was readily granted by my father, who added, "Well, Sir, if love
 " and esteem can do any thing towards
 " a cure, your recovery will be soon
 " effected by two such nurfes." Mr. S— smiled, and my father left him, sending every day to know how he did, and oftentimes coming himself.

His sister and I generally sat up every night. Notwithstanding his indisposition, the hours seemed to pass pleasantly away, love being the principal subject

ject of our conversation, and frequent the wishes of the day, when our happiness would be completed. One night, when we had entered deeply into these matters, and reason was absorbed in love, he, who had been long watching the favourable opportunities of gratifying the base design upon my honour, said, "My dear, why should we protract the bliss, which we so ardently wish to enjoy?" I stood amazed, and confounded, at his saying. He drew me towards him, and declared, with the most solemn vows, his sincerity. I endeavoured to release myself, and called out for help, but in vain, for he clasped me in his arms, and prevented me. He solicited, I denied; he promised, I trembled; he vowed, I believed.

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E're the guilty scene was closed, my conscience smote me: and, when the guilty scene was closed, something from within told me, that I had done wrong. O! what trouble and sorrow did I feel at heart! The mind, before calm and serene, was now restless, and disturbed. My innocence, never to be restored, was no more, and happiness exchanged for misery. I would have given the world to have been myself again, and to have recovered my lost virtue. I stood motionless, with shame and grief; when his sister, coming in, and learning the cause of my confusion, instead of pitying and commiserating, smiled at my misfortune, and complimented me on the pleasing surrender, as she termed it. "For, my
 " dear,

“ dear, it is only anticipating the ceremony, and you need not be under the least apprehension, after so many solemn assurances given, of the sincerity of Mr. S—’s passion.” With that saying he came forward, and, with a seeming tremor on his spirits, censured and reproached himself for the rashness of the action, wholly ascribing it to the violence of his passion; which, notwithstanding what had happened, he assured me, was not lessened, but heightened; and, to convince me of it, he would marry me, by a special license, previous to the public solemnization.

This promise afforded some relief to my troubled mind, as it would conceal my shame, though it could not excuse

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the crime I had committed. I went to bed supperless, but no rest could I take, conscious guilt kept me awake, and reflection upon the past folly, and the fear of its discovery, made me almost mad. The behaviour of his pious and modest sister astonished me, who, instead of condemning, approved, the deed; instead of being enraged at, was delighted with, it. This consideration led me to a suspicion, that he would, notwithstanding his fair and specious promises, deceive, and abandon me, to all the horrors of shame, and guilt. With these, and the like, melancholy reflections, the solitary night passed away, in tears of grief.

His sister came in the morning to my chamber, and invited me down to breakfast

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breakfast in her brother's apartments; which I entered, with a dejected and sad countenance, and sat down in silent sorrow. " My love, said Mr. S—, " be not so sorrowful and cast down, " I expect the licence and clergyman " about noon; when, I hope, you will " be satisfied, that though my passion " was violent, the design was not base. " May I be the most wretched of " beings, whilst living, and, when " dead, the most accursed hereafter, " if I even purpose to deceive thee. " Look not then with such coldness on " me." I, unpractised in love's false arts, was easy of belief, but my heart was too full of sorrow to make any reply.

As I had, neither inclination, nor appetite, to eat, I was so troubled in mind: Breakfast being over, I took a walk in the garden, where every thing (I fancied) reminded me of my lost innocence. The flowers seemed to have no fragrancy, and the blooming rose faded at my touch. As I was entering into an harbour, to meditate on my wretched condition, a servant came to acquaint me, that Mr. S— requested my presence in the parlour, adding, "The clergyman is come."

I followed with hasty steps, and in a few minutes, to all appearance, we were married. This ceremony removed every suspicion, and released me from many fears. We now agreed

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agreed to live together, like married people, with this restriction, that we would avoid familiarity before any of the family, lest we might be suspected.

About ten days passed away in this manner, when, one evening, after supper, he told me, that if agreeable to me, he would a fix day, in the following week, for our public marriage; which being approved of, he sent immediate notice thereof to my father, whom he desired to accompany him the next day, to take out the licence, as I was under age. My father accordingly came, expressed great joy at the approaching nuptials, and went home, fully satisfied of my happiness, from the courteous and polite behaviour of
Mr.

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Mr. S— towards him, and the tenderness and affection he shewed to me. The wedding was to be kept at my father's, and great preparations were made, the neighbouring gentry being invited.

Two days before the wedding day, Mr. S—, after breakfast, proposed an airing, the first after his feigned indisposition, having the night before sent off all his valuables and luggage in a waggon. This proposal was chearfully consented to by me, thinking it would contribute to the recovery of his health; by his sister, the scheme having succeeded, lest the secret should be discovered. We went into the coach, the window blinds having been drawn up for fear of his taking cold.

When

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When we were seated, four more horses were clapt to the pair, and the coachman received orders not to stop at any place. After travelling three or four hours, I said "When, my dear, shall we stop? Where are we going, for we seem to be drove at a great rate? We are not far from home," said Mr. S—. We are taking a circuit, and the hills make it seem long and tedious: a little patience, my love, and we shall be at our journey's end." In less than two hours, the coach shook and jolted so much, that I was afraid of being overturned, and, hearing strange voices on each side of the coach, I was terrified with the apprehension of thieves. Mr. S—, to dissipate my fears, let down the blind; when to my surprise and astonishment,

I

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I found myself in an inn, and, upon alighting, enquiring the name of the place, I was answered, with a smile, at my ignorance, “ It is called, madam, London.”

We were shewn a room, into which I had scarce entered, when I fainted away. Upon recovery from the fit, Mr. S— assured me, the design of coming to town was, that I might please myself with patterns of silks for suits of clothes, and to buy some laces and jewels, suitable to my station of life, the appearance I was to make on my wedding day, and the visits to be returned after it. This dissipated my fears, and, after a little refreshment, he handed me into a superb chariot in waiting, which, after having purchased

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a great variety of the things mentioned, carried us to a large and elegant house in Broad-street, prepared for my reception.

The next day I rose early, expecting the coach and fix to carry us into the country. But how confounded was I, when Mr. S—'s sister acquainted me, that her brother had put off his journey, and had written to my father, concerning our marriage, in the country; adding, that this being his resolution, she should take her leave, as we were now happily and comfortably settled, and set out to-morrow, on her return to Somersetshire. I could make no answer for some time, at last, bursting into a flood of tears, I said, " O madam, do not leave me a stranger in
" a

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“ a strange place; without your com-
“ pany I shall be comfortless, having
“ no one to whom I can communi-
“ cate my thoughts, or converse with,
“ but yourself; stay, at least, till I
“ have contracted some acquaintance,
“ till I can send for a sister to town,
“ to be my companion.” “ I pity your
“ condition, replied miss S—, but his
“ orders, for my leaving town, are ab-
“ solute, and I must comply, however
“ disagreeable; my whole subsistence
“ depending on him, which you will
“ hereafter fully know.” Then em-
bracing me, with great warmth, she
said, “ If I have ever done any thing
“ to displease or offend you, forgive
“ me.” I hastily answered, not dream-
ing, that she had been the instrument
employed to effect my ruin, “ You
“ want

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“ want no forgiveness, for it is not in
“ so good a nature, to do any one the
“ least injury.” This said, we embraced again, and she departed, to prepare, as I thought, for her journey.

She was a young woman of a reputable family, as I found, in the city, who had been seduced from her relations by Mr. S—, on whom he had made an handsome settlement, on this vile and infamous condition, that she should, upon occasion, represent his sister, and be assisting to him in his intrigues, to debauch the innocent and unwary. He became acquainted with her at a city ball. At these entertainments the youth of both sexes indiscriminately meet, and little enquiry is

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made

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made into the character of the persons admitted; the appearance, if decent, being sufficient to constitute the gentleman, and to procure his admission. At these entertainments, freedoms, though innocent, are permitted, which do not comport with that reserved behaviour the young ladies are obliged to observe at home, and an acquaintance is often contracted, which reflects an injury on their character, if nothing worse happens to their person.

How unsuitable to her station and circumstances in life, is the city miss's education. Instead of being taught good housewifery, how to bring up, and manage a family, she is bred up in the air and taste of quality; she is taught to sing—to play—to dance—to
talk

talk French — to shine at a play, or an opera — even to vie with ladies of the first distinction, at Mrs. Cornelys's, in finery. What must be the consequence of this vanity? If her fortune and discretion are not equal to her pride, she will sacrifice her virtue to support the latter, and become the mistress of some vicious lord, or else she must bemoan her virginity all the days of her life; since a superior will not match with her, and one, of equal condition, avoids her, knowing that such connection must terminate in beggary and ruin. Thus, through the extravagance of females in dress, and the dearth of the necessaries of life, a considerable check is given to matrimony, and keeping, unless a sumptuary law is enacted, unavoidable. And, if the spirit of build-

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ing proceeds, as it hath begun, and no stop put to luxury, we shall in time become a city of buildings without inhabitants.

Upon Mr. S—'s return home to dinner, I mentioned the discourse of his sister; he, smiling, answered, "It is
" very true, and, since we are married,
" it is of little consequence, where we
" live, either in town, or country:" adding, "I have wrote to your father,
" earnestly requesting his leave for
" some of the family to come to town." I was well pleased at this declaration, hoping the best, yet suspecting the worst. What increased my suspicion was, after a month's residence in town, I heard nothing from the country, he continually amusing me with daily expectation

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pectation of their arrival, or diverting an enquiry by the public entertainments. What farther increased my suspicion was, the not being visited by any family, though I frequently went to the play, and he conversed there with several persons, both gentlemen, and ladies; and, what was more particularly noticed by me, he never went himself, nor permitted me to go, to church, from which, except in the time of his indisposition, he never, in the country, absented.

I was confirmed in my suspicions, that things were not right, by the following incident. I took up a resolution of visiting, since I could not be visited by, my neighbours. I accordingly sent a card to lady L—, with my

G 3 compliments,

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compliments, if not engaged, I would wait upon her that afternoon. The servant returned with this verbal message, that lady L— wondered at my assurance, for she kept no such company. This message greatly surprized me, knowing Mr. S— to be much her superior in birth and fortune. When he came in, I shewed him the card, and told him the answer returned. At which he appeared highly displeased, and incensed; from a resentment, I judged, of the treatment shewn to me, instead of an apprehension of a detection of his villainy.

A few days after this affair, going to his cabinet, I found the licence, which, alarmed me, imagining that it had been lodged in the parish church,

to which we belonged, when we were married. I carefully folded it up, and put it into my pocket, and ordering the chair to be got ready, I bid the servants to carry me to a linen-draper's in the neighbourhood. After having purchased fundry things, I entered into some conversation with him, and mentioned the ungenteel behaviour of lady L—. Having desired me to walk backward, the draper replied, “Madam, that lady's behaviour was upon the presumption of your not being married, and in the same opinion on is the whole neighbourhood: Mr. S—'s character being very well known in this part of the town.” What, Sir, said I, somewhat in anger, do you take me to be his mistress? Pray read this, and be
“convinced,

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“ convinced, (giving the licence into
“ his hands) that I am the lawful wife
“ of Mr. S—.” He took it, and, reading, shook his head, saying, “ Ma-
“ dam, this is an old licence, obtained
“ by fraud, the real names and date
“ are erased, and yours, as you may
“ observe, forged; you will find your-
“ self, what many of your sex have
“ experienced, through his wickedness,
“ to have been imposed on and de-
“ ceived, if you look upon him as
“ your husband.” At this declaration
I swooned away, and was, with diffi-
culty, got into the chair. I went
home, waiting, with the utmost impati-
ence, Mr. S—’s return to dinner. Din-
ner being over, and the servants dis-
missed, I intreated the favour of his re-
solving me a single question, which
was,

was, " Whether I was his wife, or his
 " mistress?" He answered, with some
 indignation, " Can you doubt of be-
 " ing the former, when you know in
 " what particular manner our marriage
 " was solemnized?" To which I re-
 plied, " I am informed, by Mr. T—,
 " the draper, that the licence, which
 " I found in your cabinet, and shewed
 " him, and by which we were marri-
 " ed, was a forgery, and the clergy-
 " man, who married us, was certainly
 " no better than an impostor." This
 unexpected reply confused him, when,
 after a little hesitation, and taking a
 turn round the room, he answered,
 " Pray, madam, do I treat you, like a
 " mistress? Are you not in full posses-
 " sion of every thing that I have? Do
 " you want for any thing, that can
 " contribute

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“ contribute to your pleasure and your
“ ease? Have you not the sole com-
“ mand, and disposal, of this house?
“ It would become you better, ma-
“ dam, to be grateful for what you
“ have; and I would advise you, as
“ you value my happiness and your
“ own, not to be too prying and in-
“ quisitive.” He said no more, waited
for no reply, and went out of the room
in a most violent passion. This cool-
ness confirmed the sentiments of the
draper, and my wretched condition
stared me in the face.

He spared for no expence, indeed,
to make life pleasant and agreeable.
An house, genteely furnished; a libra-
ry, consisting of modern books in taste;
plays and operas, to amuse and enter-
tain;

tain; a coach and chariot, with servants, to attend me at all hours; the most sumptuous dresses, and richest jewels, to adorn my person; the choicest wines, and most luxurious delicacies, to regale the appetite; in short, I seemed to want for nothing, when, in reality, I wanted for every thing, my innocence, my innocence was lost, and could the perjured wretch have restored it me again, or made the right compensation for the violation of it, by a real marriage, I should have been happy. Heaven would have pardoned the first folly, I should have been preserved from greater wretchedness, and, worst of all, from an increase of guilt. In the absence of Mr. S—, the library was my principal delight; in some of the books I read of the distresses

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treffes of the unfortunate and deluded part of our sex, which drew tears of pity and commiseration from me, not imagining, at that time, that I should be plunged into the same, even greater, distresses, though not the same guilt.

I was narrowly watched, by order of Mr. S—, lest I should abscond. I should certainly have attempted an escape, but I knew not where, or to whom, to go, and I dreaded a return to my father. He behaved with his usual civility, for about two years after this affair, endeavouring to keep me in ignorance, and protesting his innocence. After that time he began to decline, was less at home, and seemed not so fond of my company. He frequently

quently came home disordered in liquor, which he knew was my detestation, when he insulted me with the most opprobrious language, as if it was not sufficient to have spoiled me of my innocence. He would excuse himself indeed the next day, when sober, but his intoxication was so often repeated, that he was lost to all sense of decency, and began to treat me with the greatest indifference. Nevertheless I was studious to please, and humour his perverse temper, being careful not to commit a fault, or to offer the least pretence for his brutality.

Would the friends of the bottle reflect on the mischievous consequences of excessive drinking, they would be sick of it, at least be temperate in the

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use of it. The drunkard is not content with murdering himself, but he scatters mischief all around him. His tongue is full of slander and defamation — His eyes are inflamed, and burn, with lust. — His ears are open to every base and scandalous report — His hands are ready to commit any violence, and his feet swift to execute it. For wine hardens him against the fear of danger, stifles remorse, renders him insensible of shame, prompts him to mean gratifications, and urges him on to the most cruel and ungenerous actions. Mr. S—, to excuse his drinking, (the folly of which, when cool, I took the freedom of remonstrating to him) pleaded, That there was truth in wine. A just observation. For it frequently occasions the wine-bibbers to speak, what,

what, in prudence, they should have carefully concealed, and often exposes their weakness and incapacity, which would have been for their interest to have continued a secret. However successful in dissembling, when sober, it is not an easy matter to play the hypocrite, when drunk. The more the person is disguised in liquor, the more open his heart generally is; it makes wise men to appear like fools, and, somewhat unluckily indeed, shews fools, not known to be such before, what they really are, not wise; it takes every one off his guard, leaving no one the command of himself, his words, or his actions. This was the case of Mr. S—, who, in his fits of intemperance, would drop the words, “ deserting, keeping, com-

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“plying, discharging, marrying,” &c. Though I understood not the meaning of these words, I suspected they proceeded from some base scheme in agitation. I soon found my suspicion to be true.

One evening he brought home with him a gentleman, whom he called Sir John: it was late, and I had waited in expectation of his coming to tea. He seemed to have been drinking very freely, for he could scarce support himself. After they were seated, I asked him, if he chose tea, or coffee? He, with an unusual air, broke the china with his cane, ordered the servant to fetch a bottle of claret, and, in an imperious tone, bid me begone immediately. I paid my respects, and
with

with pleasure retired; but had the curiosity, knowing that I was secure from a discovery, to listen to the conversation. Well, said my squire, am not I a man of spirit, think you, Sir John? Who dares to treat a mistress thus? Sir John replied, Why, truly, no man; nor would you have dared, had she been your mistress. Will you bet an hundred guinees? No betting, answered Sir John; her countenance is too modest, and her behaviour too prudent, for a kept lady, and your manner of treating her too rude and insolent to be her keeper; she is certainly your wife. Was she your mistress, you would have had the coffee-pot at your head, and the servants been ordered to have kicked us both out of the house; and to-morrow you must have purchased

her peace, and your reconciliation, by a present of plate, a diamond ring, or a piece of silk. I have seen enough, Harry, of this brutal conduct in the married state, (that I cannot be mistaken) when the best treatment hath been merited; but have never known, or heard of it in the other, notwithstanding the pride and insolence have been intolerable, and would have excused the worst behaviour. I went away, having heard enough to convince me of Mr. S—'s baseness, and dishonesty.

In this manner we lived a considerable time, when, coming home, one evening, very early, and unexpectedly, to supper, being in great good humour, talking of this and that, he
said,

said, " Will you oblige me, my dear, " with your company, to morrow, at " the opera." I was pleased with the opportunity of going abroad, having been at no place of entertainment for some time, and much confined. We spent the evening agreeably, sat up late, and were uncommonly chearful. Sad mirth ! The event will shew it. We are often least suspicious, when there is the most danger, and when it is necessary to be, we are the least, upon our guard. Little did I expect, under these professions of regard and complaisance, my destruction was concluded upon, and that in giving him the pleasure of my company, an eternal separation was designed.

The

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The following evening I went, richly dressed, to the opera, and afterwards to a friend's house, where we finished the evening; and, being late, continued all night. In the morning he rose early, and, after breakfast, pretending some urgent business, he left me, with a promise of seeing me at dinner. I wondered that the chariot returned not, for I usually took an airing every morning. Dinner brought up, I was under no little concern, that he came not. Dinner and supper being over, and no Mr. S—, I became very uneasy. Whilst I was considering with myself, what should be the cause of his absence, a porter brought me the following billet.

“ My

“ My dearest,

“ Be not troubled at my absence,
“ occasioned by debates in parliament,
“ of the most interesting concern to
“ the public. The time is not less tedious to me, than you, till my return. I am obliged to keep the
“ chariot, not knowing, when the
“ house will break up. Your orders
“ will be chearfully obeyed, where
“ you are, as if at home, amongst
“ your own servants.

“ Yours, most affectionately,

“ T. S.”

I had no suspicion of the honesty of
this billet, knowing the house did not
sometimes

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sometimes break up, till two, or three, in the morning. But how great was my surprise, when, instead of seeing him in the morning, which I expected, I received this short, but melancholy note, by the same porter.

“ Madam,

“ I am obliged to leave the town
“ immediately, my affairs being in
“ some confusion. You must not ex-
“ pect to see me again, nor can you
“ return to your former habitation,
“ the house and furniture being in the
“ possession of my creditors. You
“ need not doubt of civil treatment

“ where

" where you are, if you will comply
" with their request.

" Your's,

" T. S."

No sooner had I read this note, than I fainted away, and was some time, before I could be recovered. I refused, for some days, to take any nourishment, abandoning myself to grief and sorrow. I was roused from this situation by the mistress of the house, who told me, " that I must cease my lamentations, and dry up my tears, and think of doing something to provide for myself, for she could not afford to maintain, and keep me, for nothing." Had I been at a loss to know

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know the meaning of these words, her husband, who came up, explained them to me, saying, with an impudent face, and vile tongue, “ Madam, you must
 “ either commence prostitute, and
 “ join company with your sisters below stairs, or immediately turn
 “ out.”

I did not hesitate in determining what to do, though shocked at the proposal. I still had so much virtue left, to give the preference to the latter, judging, that my jewels, &c. which were valuable, would, by the sale of them, enable me to put myself into the haberdashery, or millinery, way. Upon hearing my resolution, a coach was sent for; I got into it, and ordered the man to drive to Broad-street. When

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I came there, I found the servants all gone, and the furniture of the house selling by auction. Not less at the unexpected sight, than the sudden reverse of fortune, I fainted. By the assistance of the persons present, and some hartshorn, my spirits were recovered.

I then ordered the coachman to drive to a jeweller's in the Strand, who had some knowledge of my person, and of whom the trinkets, in my possession, were bought. I was set down at the house, and, finding him at home, mentioned my distress, and my design, by the help of the jewels, to put myself into some way of business. He readily recollected me, and invited me into his back parlour; when looking upon
I the

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the jewels, he shook his head. This surprized me, thinking it arose from a concern for my unhappy condition; but how great was my astonishment, when he said, “ Madam, I sold you
 “ diamonds, but these are no better
 “ than French paste; the gold repeat-
 “ ing watch, &c. you had of me,
 “ was worth about an hundred gui-
 “ neas, this, being pinchbeck, is, in
 “ value, about seven; for your ear-
 “ rings, necklace, stomacher, &c. I
 “ received about four hundred pounds,
 “ for these I cannot allow you more
 “ than thirty.”

After recovering from the confusion this declaration occasioned, I took my leave, for the present, and bid the coachman to drive to Mr. —, before whom

whom I laid open the whole affair, and my suspicion of the robbery. He heard me with attention, and then told me, "He would grant a warrant, but it would be very difficult to prove a robbery, or even an exchange, because I had never been out of the room;" adding farther, "That he suspected me, notwithstanding the modest, but artful simplicity of my looks, that I was a cheat, for he was sure of my being — —, because the place mentioned, was the most infamous — — house in town." This enraged me, and, with some warmth, I replied, "That his worship ought to afford protection, not add affliction, to the innocent, and the distressed." Farther I told him, "That I was Mr. S—'s wife,

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" who was gone into the country a-
 " bout business." " Now, said he,
 " you have convinced me, that you
 " really are, what I suspected you to
 " be. Mr. S— is married, to the
 " great joy of that ancient and wor-
 " thy family, and left that woman,
 " whom you acknowledge yourself to
 " be, whose prodigality, pride, and
 " extravagance, would have terminated
 " in the ruin of his estate, and the
 " dishonour of his family. It is on
 " his account I dismiss you, and not
 " send you, which I can, and ought
 " to do, to Bridewell. This lenity,
 " madam, remember, you owe to your
 " past connection."

How just and impartial this gen-
 tleman in the administration of pub-
 lic

lic justice, in countenancing a vice, by not punishing the guilty, when in his power! To cure an evil, you must strike at the root of it. To suppress licentiousness, make no distinction between the offenders. The more respectable the person, the greater his guilt; for he not only injures himself, by his folly, but society, by his bad example, therefore his punishment should be the more severe. There can be no end to debauchery amongst the vulgar, whilst it is connived at, and patronized, by men of fortune, distinction, and power. The sending a common prostitute to jail, is not the best method of lessening, or eradicating, prostitution. Such poor creatures, who, on account of their poverty and misery, are rather objects of

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charity and humanity, than rigour and severity, being penniless and friendless, fall a sacrifice to public justice, for the want of a lord to protect, or a fee to secrete, them. Was I more innocent, than the vilest wretch, who walks the streets; who had not, perhaps, the advantages of my pious and sober education, who wanted for nothing, that a most tender and loving parent could give? Can a coach excuse the crime, or should it screen the criminal from the proper punishment? Let the magistrates be more assiduous in searching out these distinguished sinners, who, notwithstanding their pretences to modesty, have, like Cain of old, the mark on their foreheads, and are easily known. Let them be more assiduous in finding out, and suppressing,

pressing, infamous houses, which cannot be unknown to them, than in taking up the frequenters of them; and instead of committing them to Bridewell, whether rich or poor, to send them to their respective parishes, or friends. The Magdalen, though an humane and pious institution, cannot receive all, and Bridewell, though a necessary prison for the punishment of little offenders, cannot hold, nor cure, all, and, in fact, mends few.

From the justice I went back to the jeweller's, and sold my trinkets, which, with the money in my purse, made up the sum of forty guineas. I requested the gentleman to recommend me to a lodging. He excused himself, by saying, very coolly, That he knew
of

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of none in that neighbourhood, being housekeepers of reputation. I took my leave, and ordered the coachman to drive me to a tavern. Upon being set down, I was shewn into a room, and, sending for the master, I told him my distressed case, desiring him, either to lodge me, or to procure a lodging.

" I pity your condition, madam, said

" the vintner, and am sorry, that I can

" afford you no assistance; this is a fo-

" ber house, I live in good credit with

" my neighbours, and would not

" be known to harbour, or give any

" encouragement to, persons of your

" profession; therefore must request

" you to leave the house imme-

" diately."

O!

O! what hypocrisy, and inhumanity! This fellow, whose conscience was so scrupulous, not to admit of female visitors, thought it no injury to his reputation, nor any crime, to permit young gentlemen of fortune to lose their paternal estates at his tables, before they came to inherit them, and wealthy citizens to become bankrupts, and their families beggared, by princely feasts and banquets at his house. How unaffected this man's conscience, at hearing the most horrid oaths and imprecations of the gamester, and suffering the most unseasonable hours of excess and riot, to the disturbance of the peace and repose of the neighbourhood. Is drunkenness a less sin, and less dangerous in its consequences,

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quences, than the sin of uncleanness? Is not the drunkard a madman at large; either melancholy, his senses so stupified by liquor, to be incapable of any thing; or raving, his passions so inflamed, that he is capable of every thing, and prepared for the commission of the most atrocious offences against God, and man? Reflect on this, ye vintners, who are for compounding matters between your conscience and interest; who fear for your reputation, if a wench, with her gallant, slides in at the back door, in the dusk of the evening, but look upon it to be no discredit to throw open your doors, at noon day, to admit the gambler, the bravo, and the sot.

I sent for the coachman, and, giving him a glass of wine, mentioned my distress, and asked his assistance, in procuring a lodging. “ I have, ma-
 “ dam, said the man, a small house
 “ hard by, and a spare room in it,
 “ at your service ; but there is one
 “ thing, I must beg leave to mention,
 “ which may not be agreeable to so
 “ fine a lady, that you must change
 “ your apparel, and appear in the
 “ character of a servant, for though I
 “ am a poor man, I would not have
 “ my reputation hurt for the world.”

Full of sorrow, as I was, I could not forbear smiling at the word reputation, which I shall ever suspect, having suffered so much from the pretenders to it. It is a word, that imports
 much

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much good, but serves, like hypocrisy in religion, for a cloak to villainy. I gladly accepted the coachman's offer, paid for the wine, and whispered the landlord, "to shew me the most private way out of his house, lest, being seen, I should injure his reputation." I got into the coach, and was drove to Monmouth-street, where the gay lady of the manor was quickly changed into the decent chambermaid. Having purchased things useful and necessary to my present station in life, I put them into a box, and was carried to my lodging, which was clean and neat, though poor and mean.

I took in plain work for present support, purposing to get into a genteel service. For this purpose I entered
my

my name in a register office, the asylum of the unfortunate and worthless, from whence good characters are easier to be purchased, than procured, or merited. It was not long, before I was strongly recommended, by persons who had never seen me, to a merchant, to wait upon his lady, with the character of a sober and good servant. The simplicity of my looks, and modest behaviour, strengthened the recommendation: I was accordingly taken into the family. I soon discovered my master to be a libertine. I had scarce been two months at my place, before he attempted to bribe me, by offering me several presents, which I refused, with the utmost disdain, to accept, to induce me to a compliance with his base designs. My

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former

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former polluted life I always reflected upon with horror, and resolved never to repeat the detested act. I sincerely repented of my past follies, and heaven, I hope, will forgive them. My mistress was amiable and lovely in her person, of an obliging and forgiving temper, and possessed of every qualification requisite for the happiness of the married state. She was no stranger to my master's intriguing spirit, having severely suffered for it, and therefore kept a watchful eye over him, and her servants. Finding that he could not prevail, by corrupting me, he was resolved upon forcing me, to his lewd purposes. One day, being in my mistress's chamber, and making the bed, my master, supposing her to be gone out, came in, and, after some intreaties,

intreaties, proceeded to violence. On which I immediately cried out for help, when my mistress, to his surprise, being in the next room, came in, and, after having severely, though justly, reproached him for his low and vile behaviour, which he little regarded, bid me, whose resistance deserved a different treatment, to pack up my things, and quit the house directly. To reply was useless, to obey necessary, lest jealousy should have suggested something worse.

Had I been an ignorant, poor, country wench, how easy would it have been, for my master, to have succeeded in his attempt. If his rhetoric had failed, a present would have prevailed, and I should have thought it an honour

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to share, with my mistress, in the love and esteem of her husband. What do such villains deserve, who, instead of instructing, seduce, the ignorant; instead of affording protection to the poor, use their poverty as the proper instrument to effect their ruin.

I procured a lodging at a chandler's shop: where, having occasion to lay out a little more money, than I had received for wages, I had recourse to my purse, which seemed to be very light; upon opening it, I found, to my inexpressible concern, no more than ten guineas left in it: the rest having been borrowed, by my friend, the coachman, who, though a poor man, had valued himself much upon his reputation. I resolved to put up

of

21

with

with the loss, since I believed it would be in vain to make an enquiry, and I was not willing to venture again in the presence of a justice of peace.

Having entered my name at the accustomed office, in less than ten days I was recommended to the family of a reputable tradesman, for an upper servant. I went, with the former good character, was approved of, and hired. My master was a very pious, godly man, never missed the meeting on the lord's day, had a cold dinner always on that day, that his servants might attend divine service, and constantly, every night, the whole family was called together, for half an hour, to prayer, and psalm-singing. Most of the assembly were so fatigued with the

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daily work, that they had much rather have been excused; so heavy to slumber and sleep were they, that they could neither pray with the spirit, nor the understanding, and generally answered, amen, with a yawn. Servants, who are required to sit up late, to work hard, and to rise early, have little inclination to pray, and have not a moment to spare from rest. For such the observance of the sabbath is sufficient, more is not expected.

The family were presbyterian methodists, continually at their devotions, and full of pious breathings; always extolling and magnifying the purity and rectitude of their own principles, and railing and exclaiming against the church, in tyrannizing over the consciences

sciences of men, by requiring a belief of her articles, &c. and conformity to her discipline; never considering, that their own priests were not less authoritative and dogmatical, less tenacious of their doctrines, and the belief and assent of their followers less implicit. Such behaviour was, in my humble opinion, of little credit to their understanding, and of no great honour to religion, though their zeal might be highly applauded and commended by the bigots of their party.

I indeed was a friend to the church, because the national establishment, and communion with her, neither sinful, nor unlawful; thinking, as a member of society, and living under the protection of its laws, that I was rather bound

bound in conscience to submit to, than oppose, government, in matters civil, or religious, which were reasonable, equitable, and just. Those of a different way of thinking, when they had the power, did not shew themselves the most obedient subjects, nor the most condescending christians, denying that liberty of conscience to others, which they so warmly solicited for themselves.

Were the } honours and revenues
of the church always bestowed on men,
eminent for their virtues, wisdom, ex-
perience, and resolution; not less distin-
guished also for works of humanity
and liberality, in proportion to their
several abilities; we might hope for a
restoration of church discipline, so
much

much decayed—for a decent and spirited performance of its different services, the contrary of which widens the schism, and makes the censures of her opponents just—for a check to the spreading growth of enthusiasm, not less an abuse of good sense, than an insult on religion—for the sacred function being raised from its present contempt, and its professors put upon an equality with those, of other liberal and useful professions—for none but persons of merit, learning, and virtue, being admitted into the church, instead of too many of the reverse character, the sport of libertines, the offence of the pious, the disgrace of their employers, and the dishonour of religion—and for christians not founding their religion on external observances

vances of rites and ceremonies, but on inward purity and sincere piety.

I had not been long in this house, before I found myself in the situation of Susanna of old, and my master, and his brother, who lived with him, to have all the seeming piety, and viciousness, of the two elders. Each of them had cast a wishful eye upon me; the outward sanctity serving for a veil to the lust raging within. The solicitations to sin, from such pious souls, amazed and shocked me; and such base hearts, lodged under such godly countenances, had well nigh made me a convert to infidelity. I resisted their importunities, and upbraided them for their vile hypocrisy; for their pleadings of nature, against the feelings of
divine

divine grace. My master's brother, to convince me that he meant not to desert and expose me, and to assure me of the reality and sincerity of my affection, produced a deed signed, wherein he had settled an hundred a year upon me for life, and proposed to keep me a country house, near town, with a servant. Great temptations these, for poverty, and obscurity, to contend with, and surmount! I answered the proposal, in saying, " Sir, " you are mistaken in the person. I " dare be honest, though poor, and " friendless, and, believe me, I shall " never purchase a subsistence at the " price of my shame." My master would frequently feign an indisposition, that he might have better opportunities of disclosing his passion, and attempting

ing my virtue. He also vowed the utmost secrecy, and constancy; and, to induce me to a compliance with his base purpose, promised, after the decease of his wife, who was old and infirm, to marry me; and, in the mean time, he would provide a genteel and retired lodging for me near the neighbourhood. I answered him, by saying, "That he had seen nothing in
" my behaviour, since I had been in
" the family, which could persuade
" him to believe my principles to be
" loose, and dishonest; that it would
" betray the confidence placed in me,
" and be the basest ingratitude for the
" many singular marks of her esteem
" and regard for me, to think of, much
" more to act, so dishonourable a part
" by her." I recommended to him
to

to him to consider, how consistent such proposal was with his piety and devotion, and that he should endeavour to be the character he personated. As I found it would be in vain to combat with these holy men, who were resolved on their lustful gratification, I quitted the service, to the disappointment of their lust, and the preservation of my internal peace, at a minute's warning.

I returned back to my former lodging, where, soon after my return, I was confined some months with a violent fever, which drained me of all my money, and obliged me to pawn the principal, and best, part of my cloaths. When I had recovered a little strength, I went into service, but I was

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so weak, through my late disorder, that, in a fortnight's time, I was obliged to leave it. When I came back, my landlady finding that little was to be had from me, put me into a back garret, without any fire place, the windows broke, and stopped up with old rags and dishclouts, and no curtains to my bed, except what the cobwebs, which were plenty, afforded. In a few weeks I had pawned every thing, excepting what was on my back, and, being incapable of working, my landlady insisted on her rent weekly, or else I must seek a new lodging. This compelled me to go abroad, and to commence the beggar. Being a novice in the art, my begging was not very profitable. When I intreated charity, the answer was,

“Wench,

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“Wench, get to service, you are lazy
“and idle;” or, “Have you no pa-
“rish? or, “You ought to be sent
“to Bridewell, such creatures ruin
“half the apprentices, and young
“fellows, in town.” These were
hard and mortifying sayings; which,
however, the poor must hear, without
receiving any relief, or making any
reply.

Accidental distress, instead of being
the object of charity, excites the ge-
neral indignation. To relieve a beg-
gar, is to encourage idleness; and to
answer the calls of hunger, and thirst,
is deemed a violation, and abuse, of
Christian beneficence. The person
afflicted, it is said, may be an im-
postor, or, if the distress is real, may

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be unworthy. How frivolous the pleas to excuse an hard heart, or an avaricious spirit. Is it not far better, that charity should be misapplied, than that one real object should be unassisted, and unrelieved? How often have I seen, from my chariot, poor deplorable creatures (such as I myself now was) lie languishing in the streets, scarce meriting the notice, seldom meeting with the pity, of the passenger; often exposed to the vile reproaches, and cruel treatment, of the gaping crowd; hurried away, from place to place, by the inferior officers of every parish, till heaven, pitying their condition, puts an end to their misery, and they perish in the streets. As men, we must blush for our humanity; as Christians, we must fear for our religion. Impositions,

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tions, indeed, are frequent; but is charity to be withheld from a mere suspicion, or even the probability, of being cheated? The appearance of distress frees us from the imputation of weakness in affording relief, even requires immediate assistance, lest the party should suffer, nay more, perish, (which hath been the case,) before we can be satisfied of his merit. The character of the easy, good-natured fool, (so stiled by many) who is ready to stretch out the friendly hand to the distressed, is far preferable to the man, who, till all his scruples and doubts are removed, will not part with a farthing, lest his good sense and understanding should be questioned. Supposing the misfortunes of the distressed, like to mine, proceeded from his own folly,

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and indiscretion; even this is no excuse for uncharitableness. Let the most inhuman wretch put his hand to his breast, and say, "I am innocent." When he can say that, he may be justified in not shedding one single tear for the unfortunate, and uncharitableness in him will not be accounted a sin. It is the sufferings, not the actions, of the person, we are to consider. Pain of body, and uneasiness of mind, are punishment enough for the sinner; they need not be increased by indifference in the time of distress. Charity towards him may produce a reformation, as it will convince him, how much he oweth to the goodness, and excellency, of that religion, which inspires its professors with compassion, and tenderness, even for the undeserving.

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ving. How can Christians solemnly address the Almighty in that comprehensive form of their master, saying, "Our Father," and, at any time, behold the distress and want of their brethren, without feeling for, and relieving, them? Prayers may be used for a mask of piety, and to acquire the reputation of godliness, but works of charity shew the true and sincere disciple of Christ.

Any relief would have been very seasonable to me, for my landlady grew peevish, and cross, because I was deficient in my rent; my begging producing no more than the bare supply of the wants of nature. One night, in a fit of drunkenness, after having abused, and beat me, she turned me
into

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into the streets, and, having no money, I took up my lodging in an empty house.

How melancholy, and comfortless, was my present situation. I, who had lately had an house elegantly furnished, and servants to attend my pleasure, had no place of refuge, no friend to relieve me, forsaken by every one, and, to increase my wretchedness, a mind disordered with guilt. I was now convinced, from experience, the surest, but severest, master for teaching wisdom, that there was no true pleasure, nor happiness, without innocence, and that pride, vanity, and the loss of virtue, were generally succeeded by want and poverty, shame and infamy. I was afraid of walking
abroad

abroad in the day time, thinking my countenance was an indication of my past guilt, and that every one, who looked upon, suspected, me. The charity, which I had shewn to others, I now wanted. The time was come, when I, who had so plentifully fed the poor, would have gladly accepted, even of their refuse — when I, who had fed on the choicest delicacies, should want, even a morsel of bread — when I, who had been adorned with the riches of the East, should be destitute, even of a slender covering to hide my nakedness—when I, who had never been permitted to go abroad without a chair, or chariot, was to be exposed to the inclemency of the cold by night, and the intenseness of the heat by day. O! that I had preserved my virtue
unfouled !

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unfulfilled ! (but it was now too late) what troubles should I have escaped, what happiness enjoyed ! I had nothing to comfort me in this distress, than the tortures of an evil conscience, the prospect of a miserable life, and the apprehension of an immediate death.

One day, walking in the public streets, and soliciting charity, Mr. S— passed me. I intreated relief for one, almost perished with want. The villain knew my voice, and remembered my person, though obscured with rags, and nastiness. He looked upon me with the greatest scorn and contempt, (though conscious of his being the cause, through his desertion, of this wretched appearance,) and walked

walked on. I followed, still begging, with prayers, and tears, that he would relieve me, and afford some small matter to cover my nakedness, and to satisfy my present hunger. He replied, "Be gone, wench." To which I answered, "Do you not remember the agreeable miss D—?" "Have you nothing to spare for one, whom your cruel desertion hath reduced to this distressed and miserable condition?" He turned round, and threw me a shilling, saying, "If you are tired of life, that will purchase you a dose, and put an end to your distress and misery." He beckoned a coachman, drove off, and was soon out of sight. Horrid consolation! cruel recompence this! to a needy wretch, for lost virtue.

I once took up my stand at a tavern door, expecting some broken victuals. When the waiter came out, I held my apron, hoping to receive a few of the crumbs, which had fallen, plentifully, from the tables of the rich. I was greatly disappointed; for, instead of receiving a single scrap, or crumb, he, with a terrible oath, bid me, begone, and, with a whistle, called together half a dozen of his dogs; amongst whom he shook the cloth in his hand. Though I was almost famished, he would not permit me the poor comfort of sharing with the beasts. An hard, mouldy crust, which I had picked up, and the curs (being too well fed at other times) had refused to touch, he compelled me, by oaths and threats, to throw

throw down again. Hard fate! to be denied, even the refuse of the dogs. A savage must blush at such cruelty and inhumanity in the Christian. "When, unhappy wretch, will thy afflictions, and distresses, be at an end!"

Such was my distress, that I knew not what to do, nor where to go, no friend to apply to, and in want of every necessary of life; driven from parish to parish, without obtaining relief from any; the street my lodging, and the portion of dogs, picked up in the streets, my subsistence; too weak, (I must not say, lest I should offend the incredulous, too honest,) to steal, and so despicable and worthless my appearance, that even charity withheld

M

her

her hand, and thought it a sin to relieve me. In this wretched condition, being driven to despair, I resolved to make away with myself, in the close of the evening. The night came on, when I made the attempt, but the instrument of death, by the divine providence, failed, the wicked intention was frustrated, and an infamous end prevented.

After I had recovered from the fright, and the horror of the act, which I had attempted to commit, my guardian angel suggested a return to my disconsolate parents. “How many servants, said I, hath my father, who live at ease, and in the midst of plenty, whilst I am consuming and pining away daily for want!

“How

“How sweet is their rest on beds of
 “down, whilst the cold earth is my
 “bed, and the damp air my cover-
 “ing.” Notwithstanding, a return
 appeared more terrible, than the pre-
 sent wretchedness. How could I look
 them in the face, whom, by a base
 life, I had so much dishonoured, and
 disgraced; whose grey hairs I had well
 nigh brought down, with sorrow, to
 the grave. Scarce a day had passed,
 since my unhappy departure, but
 what some tears had been shed.
 Twice had my tender mother been
 snatched from the jaws of death, and
 my father, from a continual uneasiness
 of mind, was apprehended to be in a
 consumption.

M 2. Thrice

Thrice I attempted to set out upon the journey, but the terrors of guilt made me afraid to pursue my resolution. "Alas! what reception can a wretch, like me, expect? Why did I not return, before I was abandoned? What can be hoped from virtuous parents by a daughter, in whom, it was difficult to determine, whether her crime, or misery, was the greatest. O heaven! hear, and, if thou canst, if thou hast any mercy in reserve, extend it now to the worst of sinners, and direct me right." Such were the sentiments of my soul, which I dared not, from a sense of my unworthiness, utter with my tongue. The silent prayer was heard, and I, immediately, though the evening

evening drew on, proceeded on my journey.

I had scarce got four miles from town, before I became excessive faint, and weak, having nothing more for my support, than water, crab apples, and flocs, and my bed a barn, or outhouse. When I asked an alms, the relief was, generally, a large mastif dog, let loose to worry me, or, I was threatened with the cage, and round-house, if I ever came that way again.

In passing through a village, I met with a footman, who, when in prosperity, as the deluded part of our sex calls it, was my servant. As I intreated, in the most suppliant manner, at the door of a publican, for an hard

crust, or a morsel of bread, he, looking earnestly upon me, and sighing, said, "It is she. O! how fallen from what she was!" Turning aside, he shed some tears. After a little interval, he said, "Mistress, for to call you madam, would be to insult you in your distress, yet, when I recollect the former distance between us, and the many singular favours shewn me, a poor, ignorant, country lad, and an orphan, that title, however ill suiting with your present condition, is ever due from me; accept, accept, my good mistress" — A flood of tears prevented him saying what. "May God reward your gratitude," said I. The sum given, was, I suppose, all that the poor fellow had about him,

him, consisting of half a guinea, four shillings, and a few pence.

The goodness, and gratitude, of this fellow, may serve for an admonition to masters and mistresses, to treat their servants with kindness, to give them every encouragement suitable to their merit, and, by their treatment of them, to make their servitude a service of love, not of fear. No one knows to what condition, misfortunes may reduce him, and what assistance he may want in the course of life. In what an uncertain state is human happiness! When in full security, how often, by some secret accident, is it blasted, and we suffer miseries, greater than the blessings before enjoyed.

This

This relief raised my drooping spirits. My shoes being rotten, I went to a stall, in the next village, to purchase an old pair. In paying for them, I dropt half a crown, which the cobbler immediately took up, and obstinately refused to return me. When I insisted on having it, he called me some abusive names, and a mob having gathered about us, charged me with stealing his shoes. It was in vain to plead my innocence; he had some reputation, and I had none; he was well known, and I a stranger. They searched my pockets, and, finding half a guinea, concluded, from my tattered and loathsome rags, that the charge of being a thief was just. For, who would give half a guinea to a
beggar?

beggar? I was immediately put into the cage, and the day following carried before a justice of peace in the neighbourhood. I informed him, where, and from whom, I received the half guinea, but it signified nothing; my accusers were powerful, they knew the justice, and circumstances were against me. After a sharp rebuke, his worship dismissed me, adding, That I should be whipped through the village, if I was ever seen in it again. I did not chuse to give any account of myself, and therefore the pleas used, in justification of my innocence, availed nothing; I was deemed a stroller, and treated accordingly.

The poor footman, I afterwards heard, was turned away from his place,
for

for the justice wrote a letter to his master concerning the affair. His generosity towards me was suspected to be the effect of some secret roguery in him; for it was not credible, that he should have been so liberal of his own. His master was a bitter enemy to all beggars; none were seen at his gate, and what would have supported many industrious, and indigent, families, was given to his pack of hounds. He was worse than Dives of old, who, though he relieved not, suffered Lazarus to lie at his gates, and hindered not his dogs from giving the assistance, he denied.

O ye rich men! when ye are eating daintily, and are cloathed delicately, let not the poor go away ashamed, hungry,

hungry, and naked. When the wine sparkles in your cup, mix with it the widow's, and the orphan's, tears; and when the sound of the viol and tabret is at your feasts, forget not the groans and distresses of your fellow creatures. The relief, and assistance, afforded such, will yield, to the generous mind, a delight, superior to any thing, which pleasure, luxury, and the most refined and highest gratifications of sense, are capable of producing. Let the libertine boast of his pleasures, and midnight revels; let the epicure talk of his feasting, and banquetting; let avarice hug himself, when surveying his bags of useless gold; how mean, fordid, and brutish, the satisfaction, when compared with that, which the benevolent, the charitable, and the humane,

new

humane, sensibly feel, and experience, when they recollect the many, whom their bounty and liberality have preserved, from destruction, and from death. The charitable person is a common blessing to mankind; his charity also entitles him to the esteem, and friendship, of all good men, and secures to him the daily, and fervent, prayers, both for his spiritual and temporal interest, of the disconsolate, and unfortunate, whom he hath assisted, and relieved. What he gives to others, is not lost to himself, for his charity towards man is multiplied to him by blessings from heaven.

Glad of my fortunate escape, I hastened from the barbarous villagers. After travelling about two miles, I sat
down,

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down, in a narrow lane, and reflected on the evil of money. I was in great distress for the want of it, and lately escaped much greater for the having it. The poor wretch, thought I, who could, impiously, and premeditatedly, perjure himself for half a crown, did no more than persons in higher stations, and with less temptations, do daily. They risk every thing precious and valuable, their credit and reputation, even sacrifice their conscience and religion, for the support of their luxury, and avarice.

To ride in a coach, or to keep a country house, and a horse, the honest and pious tradesman scruples not to impose upon, and deceive, his customers, to defraud his workmen and
N manufacturers

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manufacturers of their hire, or to increase their labour and task, without an increase of their pay.

These, however, are children, and fools, in comparison with those hucksters in sin, who, to procure a place, or pension, wade through seas of iniquity, adopt and pursue measures, which, before, they publicly censured, and condemned, and the minister, who was yesterday the object of their detestation, is made this day the subject of their admiration.

The altar is not without its share of this vice.- The acquisition of more livings, than they can discharge, which, after possession, are seldom, if ever, visited, too often the wages of
civil

civil services, proves it. Can we call the lazy and pampered priest, a religious divine, because of his profession? No more, than the lawyer, who pleads for his fee, can be said to be honest; or, the soldier, who fights for his pay, be accounted brave. The inferior of that order, many of whom are respectable for their merit and learning, more, for their decent behaviour, becoming the sacred profession, and the conscientious discharge of the duties of their office, hardly procure a bare subsistence, whilst living, and, when dead, their families are left destitute of every necessary of life. If the poverty, and distress, of the inferior clergy were to be displayed, and the painful drudgery, and servility, they are compelled to submit to, for the mere sup-

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ply of the wants of nature, it would occasion even their greatest enemies to drop a tear, and not only to pity, but relieve, them; not as priests, but men. The want of a decent provision for the ministers of the gospel is a national reflection of long standing.

The poverty also of our Christian brethren, the dissenting clergy, though of a different persuasion, I reflected upon with a tender concern. These gentlemen seem, like to our inferior clergy, to have taken the good work upon them, from a real and sincere principle of promoting the cause of religion, and the salvation of mankind. They, like ours, must look for a future reward, for they enjoy few of the comforts of this life, and endure severe hardships,

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hardships, and distresses. Do the laity, of that profession, know, and suffer it? The worthy, the humane, the pious, amongst them, must feel, and lament it. A tattered cloak, and greasy breeches, become not a preacher of the gospel. If religion is necessary, its ministers should be decently maintained: either the one should be abolished, or the other supported, and not (on account of their despicable appearance) be exposed to the sneers, and ridicule, of every drunken porter, or butcher's boy, they meet in the streets. A poor, distressed, ragged clergyman, is the most shocking, and affecting, spectacle, that can present itself to the human sight.

I was roused, from these reflections, by the noise of a coach and fix, which, on a sudden, was stopt near to the place, where I was, by two persons, whom I suspected, by being out of livery, and armed, (and my conjecture proved true) to be highwaymen. I was greatly terrified, contemptible as I appeared, not from any apprehension of being robbed, for I had nothing to lose, but lest they should be induced, for secrecy, to prevent a discovery, to dispatch me. How solicitous was I to preserve a life, which, a few days before, it would have been a pleasure to have been released from, and I had rashly attempted to destroy. My fear proved false, for having finished their business at the coach, instead of receiving

ceiving a bullet, they threw me, as they rode by, half a crown: thinking, as many of these unhappy wretches do, that charity to the poor will be allowed some compensation for plundering the rich, and, by relieving the distressed, to wash away the foulness of the theft. A conduct not more culpable than the miser's, who endeavours, when dying, to atone for his extortion, oppression, and injustice, by building an alms-house, or an hospital, or distributing his thousands, in which he hath no longer any property, nor enjoyment, amongst public charities.

I viewed the half crown, but the troubles, lately undergone, being fresh in my memory, by having such a piece of money in my possession, I did, what
an

an East India, or Bank, director would scarce have done; I passed on, and left it untouched. It was, as I afterwards heard, picked up by a waggoner, in company with a passenger; who insisting upon dividing it, and the waggoner choosing to keep the whole, from words they went to blows, and, after having severely handled each other, to the no small diversion of the spectators, they compromised the matter, by spending it.

I was now within six miles of my father's, and, being late in the evening, made up to a farm house, humbly requesting a lodging, for that night, in the outhouses, or barn. The people humanely (I must not say christianly, for though christianity was professed in
every

every parish, through which I passed, it did not extend to practice, for I received none other benefit from Christians, than what I might have received from savages) granted my request, giving me also a mess of broth, and some broken victuals. This I rather devoured, than ate: it proved, however, a comfortable refreshment, for, having been so much fatigued, and worried, for three days past, I had taken little nourishment. I was more anxious to secure my person from danger, than to satisfy my hunger.

I went sweetly to bed in the barn, covered over with clean straw. The weary know no difference between that, and a bed of down. A cup of water to the thirsty is full as palatable,
as

as the richest wines, and to the hungry the coarsest food as acceptable, as the stalled ox. My misery, I thought, was drawing towards its final period, purposing to be at my father's village the next evening. But, alas! wretched as I was, greater wretchedness remained; my sufferings were not at an end. When I thought my sorrow near its crisis, fresh affliction beset me. Not more than two hours had sleep closed my eyes, before I was awaked by the alarming cry of "Fire, Fire." At first I thought it to have proceeded from a restless and troubled mind, and that I dreamed; but the flames, approaching me, too fatally convinced me, that I was awake. I had only time to save a petticoat, and a cloak, which, like Joseph's coat, was of many

ny colours, by being patched with various pieces, picked up on the road, or from dunghills.

The flames raged violently, owing to a brisk wind, the want of water, the darkness of the night, and the backwardness of the country people in lending assistance to extinguish it. A fire, when it happens in a country village, is, like the small pox, dreadful. Every one first takes care of himself, and leaves his neighbour to shift, being equally afraid of burning their fingers, as of catching the infection. There is a difference indeed between the two calamities; for, after they have secured their own property, they will chearfully offer their service, when the fire, by consuming every thing, hath

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hath left them little service to perform. In the small pox it is much worse, the house of the infected is marked for a pest house, which nobody will visit, nor come near, and its inhabitants, if necessitous, and poor, are suffered to perish, if they cannot cure themselves; for nothing is sent to relieve them, and prevent the contagion, which they so much dread, from spreading. Such is the folly and inhumanity of villagers.

To return to the fire. I no sooner appeared out of the ruins, than they all cried out with one voice, "That is she — that is she." — "Lay hold on her," says one; "Throw her into the flames," says another; "Knock her brains out," said a third.

The

The fire itself was dreadful, but these cries conveyed a terrible sound to my ears. The fire behind, and savages before, thirsting after my blood, for no fault of mine, nothing less, from their violent rage, and continued clamour, was expected, than immediate death. In the midst of these terrors, I received a blow on my head with a piece of a brick, which quickly levelled me to the ground. I remained senseless for some time, and did not thoroughly recover, before I found myself in the presence of his worship. The charge against me was, the setting the barn on fire, which crime was aggravated by the sin of ingratitude, when the farmer mentioned the kind relief he had afforded me over night.

I was going to reply, but his worship ordered the commitment to be made out, and bound over the farmer, and his family, to prosecute me at the next assize. I was immediately carried off in triumph, my hands and legs tied with a strong cord, and my body fastened to a dung cart, which was surrounded with oaken clubs, scythes, and pickaxes, left a poor creature, who could scarce crawl, and almost dead with fright, and their cruel treatment, should have attempted an escape. I verily believe, that had I had strength, and resolution, to have attempted it, I could have intimidated these Quixots, and prevailed.

They

They led me through the village with loud huzzas, the boys at a distance pelting me, the curs barking, and the boors hooting, and encouraging them. In my way to Chelmsford jail, they shewed me the gallows; at the sight of it I fainted; which they interpreted for a sign of guilt, and set up such a loud halloo, as roused me from my fit. When they had safely lodged me in prison, they gave three general huzzas, in which they were joined by the townsmen, and returned home, sufficiently pleased, though they had travelled, hungry and thirsty, near twelve miles, to satisfy their brutality.

I experienced not less inhumanity within, than I had without, the prison walls. My fellow prisoners shunned me, or made me the subject of their sport, and derision. Incendiaries are reputed, in the country, the worst of villains; thieves, and murderers, being deemed innocent, in comparison with them. Here I continued about three months, in the greatest distress, feeding only on the scraps, and crumbs, which fell from the other prisoners tables; which, it is easily conceived, were not very plentiful. I had no fire to warm me, no bed but the floor, and not always that, being at times turned out into the yard, and exposed all night to the inclemency of the weather. The money sent from
charitable,

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charitable, and well-disposed, people, for the support of friendless and destitute prisoners, I received no benefit from, the nature of my crime excluding me.

The assize at last came on, and my trial was one of the first on the list of prisoners. When I was brought into court, and placed at the bar, I appeared such a deplorable object, that humanity was shocked at the sight, being oppressed with filth and rags; and indignation at the supposed crime was quickly turned into pity for the wretched criminal. When ordered to hold up my hand, I fainted, not from a consciousness of guilt, (would to God that I had been innocent in every other respect, as I was in this!) but at the

O 3 fight

fight of Mr. S—, who sat on the bench, and who, as I afterwards understood, was the high sheriff of the county that year.

When they had recovered me, they proceeded in the examination of the evidence, which, being cross examined by a worthy counsellor, who, from commiserating my wretched condition, generously undertook the management of my cause, proved vague, and contradictory; and I was, to the satisfaction and pleasure of every person present, honourably acquitted. My worthy friend, the counsellor, put a crown into my hand, whose example was followed by the judge on the bench, and the rest of the gentry. Amongst the rest, Mr S—, the high sheriff,

sheriff, drew near, and offered me a guinea; I withdrew my hand, and fainted away. In the fit, I was carried out of court, and ordered to be properly taken care of. When I recovered, I found myself at a little ale-house, and all the money lost, or carried off, by my humane carriers. The house I was obliged to quit immediately; guests, which have no money to spend, finding no welcome in such places, especially so forlorn, and deplorable, a wretch, as I was: their charity is to take from all, but to give to none.

I was now reduced to the utmost distress, having nothing more to cover me, than what the fire had left me, and some miles from my father's, whom I

NOW

now began to despair of ever seeing, my confinement, and the hardships I had suffered in it, having so much impaired my health, that I expected death every hour, even prayed for it. In this melancholy mood I was alarmed by a loud huzzaing, and, turning about, I saw a coach and six, with a grand equipage, in which were the sheriff and his lady, returning from the assize. As soon as it came near, I fell into a fit, the coachman immediately stopt, and Mr. S—, at the request of his lady, whom he had acquainted with my distress, as it appeared before the court, assisted his servants in recovering me. When recovered, seeing him by my side, I fastened my eyes upon him, and, forgetful of his rank, where I was, and who stood around me, said,

“ O!

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“ O! Sir, behold before you, the
“ once lovely and amiable Miss —.” I
could utter no more, my speech failed,
and I swooned away. But how great
was my surprize, when my senses re-
turned, to find the coach gone, and
myself alone.

The cause, as I afterwards under-
stood, was, that Mr. S—, recollecting
my person, and for fear of a discove-
ry by his lady, who was coming to my
assistance, hurried back to the coach,
and ordered the servants to drive brisk-
ly on. It was impossible to conceal
his confusion from his lady, who warm-
ly pressed him to know the cause of
his uneasiness. This he artfully evaded,
by saying, that it was the shock that
he had received from seeing so
young

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young a creature in such an helpless and destitute situation. This did not satisfy his lady, who observed him to be much dejected the whole evening, notwithstanding the variety of agreeable company present to divert him. She went out, and sent for one of the servants, who was present at the interview, and asked him, what conversation, if any, had passed between his master, and the beggar. He, modestly declining an answer, she persisted in knowing, and threatened him with the loss of his place, if he did not immediately comply. He then told her what I had said, and the consequence of it, my falling into a fit. This stimulated her to a farther enquiry, which, when Mr. S— refused to gratify, and carried it off with a laugh, she

she sent a servant, in whom she thought that she could confide, in quest of me, with peremptory orders, if he found me, to bring me to her without any change of apparel.

Mr. S— suspected the design, and prevented its effect, by ordering the servant to keep out of the way a few days, and then to return, and acquaint his lady that he could not find me. This was done, but not to the satisfaction of his lady. In the interim, Mr. S—, fearful that his villainy should be discovered, and his reputation injured, sent three of his servants, by different ways, to search me out; who, for a considerable reward, were to carry me out of the county, and to dispose of me in such manner, that he should never

ver more hear of me, nor fear a return.

The design would have succeeded, had it not been for the interposition of providence in my favour. Two of these ruffians were determined to keep together, and to share the reward, if they should find me, between them. They stood some time, close to the place, where I was, debating which way they should take. One said, she cannot be gone far, and by her ragged appearance she will be easily discovered. Hearing this, I listened with more attention, being on the other side of the hedge. I am surpris'd, replied the other, what should occasion my master to interest himself so much concerning such a bunter, to offer so large

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large a sum of money to find her out. These words I interpreted in my favour, thinking that his conscience had awakened him to a just sense of his ill treatment, and that he was willing to give me some satisfaction for the wrongs he had done me, and the distress he had brought upon me, by affording me some present relief, and endeavouring to bring about a reconciliation with my friends. These favourable sentiments were quickly erased by the other's answer: " Surely, said he, there must
" have been some secret transaction
" with the wench, who, I suspect,
" was not always what she appeared to
" be, that he should be so anxious to
" have her carried off, or, what he
" seemed to insinuate, would please
" him better, to have her murdered."

I was so shocked at this last word, that I had well nigh betrayed myself, by going to scream out, " Murder!". Here they left off speaking, and walked on.

How melancholly was my condition! I dreaded to go forward, lest I should fall into the hands of my pursuers. The shaking of a leaf affrighted me; a pistol, and a bloody knife, were ever present to my sight, sleeping, or waking; and the sight of a man made my heart to faint, and sink within me. In this confusion of mind, I resolved to lie by, all day, under some friendly hedge, and to travel in the night, being the safest. Here another scene of distress arose. What was I to do for subsistence? From whence was I to be supplied?

supplied? I dared not shew myself in any village, for I doubted not but enquiry had been made, and a price set upon my head. My feet were full of blisters, having neither shoes, nor stockings, only a few rags wrapped round them, the nights were very dark, and, being obliged to keep near the road, (lest I should wander out of the way) which was the more dangerous for my person, I could not travel far at a time. For, though I was within a few miles of my father's, it was not possible for me, from the circumstances I was in, to reach thither in less than three days.

In this uncertainty, what to do, and how to provide sustenance for myself, I came to a field of turnips, on which I

fed heartily, though, I believe, not much to the hurt, or detriment, of the owner. The ditches supplied her with drink, for whom, formerly, the choicest wines were not thought sufficiently good. I had two other dishes, one (which, from reading French authors, I had learned to be good and strengthening) was young frogs; these I had in great plenty; the other, necessity made palatable, which were birds that I caught at roost; these proved a delicious morsel. I had my tarts too, homely as they were, made of hips and haws.

This was my support, and repast, till I got to my father's village. I was twice in danger of being taken. One evening some country lads were out a
batting,

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batting, and, as they were beating the bush, the noise awaked me, and, starting up, the surprise was so great, that away ran the lads, leaving a few birds behind them, which made an elegant dinner the next day, crying, as they ran, "The devil, The devil." They reported, the next day, amongst their neighbours, that they had seen the devil, not unlike him in appearance, being hideously black and frightful, in such a field. This report gained so much credit, that no one, for some months after, ventured near the place after dark, unless the parson, and not the parson without company.

One morning, some gentlemen being out a hunting, the dogs unfortunately took to the place, where I lay,

and, had not the huntsman came up and called them off, I should have been torn in pieces. They left me, however, wounded, and bloody, and the huntsman, without asking who I was, and how I came there, pursued the chase. Notwithstanding my condition, I thought myself happy; for I had rather have been killed by the dogs, than to have been delivered into the hands of my persecutor.

After much difficulty, and great hazard, I arrived at my father's village, but not secretly. I was discovered by some men who were ploughing, and immediately taken into custody, and confined in a barn, with half a dozen of the stoutest fellows in the village to watch over, and guard me.

This

This was done in conformity to an order, sent to every parish, throughout the county, after the return of his blood hounds, from Mr. S—, to secure me for the most notorious cheat, impostor, and thief. My person was too well described, and my appearance too nearly answered the description, to doubt of my being the person. Immediately the report was spread abroad, and a messenger dispatched to Mr. S—, with the glad news of my being discovered, and secured.

I could not close my eyes, had I been so inclined, for my keepers were continually insulting me with the most opprobrious language, and talked of stocks, whipping, pillory, transportation, and hanging. What added to my

my grief was, I found, upon enquiry, my father had been absent some weeks from home, and was not expected for a fortnight. This also Mr. S— knew. At last the day appeared, and about nine of the clock came Mr. S—, with his three trusty servants, to the barn, riding full speed. They alighting, he said, “ Take this abandoned and
“ wicked wretch, bind her hand and
“ foot, and carry her away to Chelms-
“ ford jail.” Immediately, obeying the dreadful orders, they seized me, to execute the cruel and inhuman design of their bloody master. In dragging me out of the barn, my father, to the surprise and astonishment both of Mr. S— and me, entered. At the sight of him, so sudden and unexpected, Mr. S—’s conscience smote him, he
turned

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turned pale, trembled, and called for his horse.

“ Villain, said my father, stopping
“ him, that wretch, who lies at your
“ feet, is less guilty than yourself.
“ Repair, if thou canst, the loss of a
“ good and virtuous daughter, till thy
“ villainy made her otherwise. How
“ canst thou punish that creature for a
“ cheat, impostor, and thief, when
“ thou thyself art guilty of the same
“ crimes? Thou didst steal away my
“ daughter, imposed upon her cred-
“ ulity, and spoiled her of her vir-
“ tue. Boast not of thy honours, nor
“ thy ancestors greatness, thou hast
“ stained the one, and disgraced the
“ other. Hang thyself by the side
“ of that miserable creature, then you
will

“ will do both me, and your country,
 “ justice. Think not, villain, great
 “ as thou art, that thou shalt die in
 “ peace ; vengeance will pursue thee ;
 “ heaven will pity an injured parent’s
 “ wrongs, and blast thee for the per-
 “ jured deed. Restore to me my
 “ daughter.”

Mr. S—, recovering himself a little
 from the confusion and fright, which
 this rencounter had occasioned, with-
 out making the least reply, most auda-
 ciously commanded his servants to take
 me up, and toss me into the cart. As
 they were about to execute his order,
 mustered up all my strength, and,
 breaking loose from them, threw my-
 self at my father’s feet, and cried out
 in the most tender manner, “ O my
 “ father !

“ father! my father! behold, prostrate at your feet, your lost child;
“ and protect her from that villain’s
“ cruelty, who hath robbed me of my
“ innocence, and now seeks to deprive me of my life.”

The spectators stood amazed; when, taking courage, I proceeded, “ Mistake me not, most worthy sir, for
“ an impostor; I am really, and truly,
“ that unfortunate daughter of yours,
“ whose shame, and loss, you have so long bewailed, and lamented. Say
“ that you forgive her, and her miseries will be forgotten, and she will
“ die in peace: say that you forgive her, and she will bear with pleasure
“ the severest punishment that inhuman wretch can devise, or the law
“ inflict.

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“ inflict. To convince you, dear sir,
“ that I am no impostor, behold [un-
“ covering my arm] this mark,
“ which distinguished me at my birth,
“ and know me to be yours.”

My father, whose heart before was meditating a most dreadful revenge against Mr. S—, for his perfidy and baseness, was now melted into softness, a flood of tears burst forth, and, with that paternal affection and tenderness, as if I had never offended, embraced me, and fainting in my arms, cried, “ O! my child! O! my child!”

Mr. S— seized the opportunity, and, taking horse, rode off, not without the most bitter curses and execrations of the spectators of this affecting

ing scene of distress. In this posture we continued, when my mother and brethren, who had been apprised of the discovery, came running to see me. O! what a scene of joy ensued! Dirty and loathsome as I was, I thought there would have been no end of their tears, and embraces. When the first transports of joy were over, and they saw my ragged and wretched condition, immediately one of my sisters pulled off her petticoat, another her gown, my brother brought me a pair of shoes and stockings, and my father covered me with his great coat. My elder brother was in the house, making a large fire, and giving orders to the servants for an elegant dinner. He sent to the shepherd to kill three of the finest sheep, and the largest ox in the pasture,

Q

which,

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which, with three hogheads of old beer, were given to the poor the next day.

I was conducted home from the barn amidst the embraces of my relations, and the acclamations of the villagers. No sooner had I entered my father's house, but a little favourite dog heard my voice, and seemed to partake of the general happiness, by running towards me, wagging his tail, and licking my feet. After we were all seated, my father broke silence with this ejaculation, "I thank thee, O God, for thou hast heard my prayer: "I have seen my daughter, which was "lost; I shall now die in peace."

Words

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Words cannot express the joy of the whole village for my return. The church bells rang for three days, the whole family being esteemed and beloved, far and near, for their piety, and extensive charity. The rich and the poor vied with each other: the rich in compliments, and the poor in blessings, on this occasion.

The joy of the family was damped, by a violent ague and fever, which seized me the fifth day after my arrival; occasioned, as supposed, by my former hard living, and an wholesome diet, to which I had been long unaccustomed. This reduced me to the point of death, and overwhelmed the whole family with the deepest concern.

Q 2

However,

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However, at the end of two months, to the great comfort of my parents, I was pronounced to be out of danger, and, in a few weeks after, I was restored to my former state of health.

I requested of my father one evening to relate, what passed upon missing me. “ I called, said my father, that very “ morning, you took the fatal airing, “ to enquire after Mr. S—’s health, “ who had left a note, signifying his “ intention of being with us early on “ the appointed day. Leaving my “ compliments, I returned, nothing “ doubting of the sincerity of his pro- “ fession. But how great was our sur- “ prise, when the wished for day came, “ but no Mr. S—, no servant, nor
“ any

“ any intelligence ! After the eccle-
 “ siastical hour had elapsed, I took my
 “ horse, and, with your eldest bro-
 “ ther, rode away directly to Mr.
 “ S—’s, under the apprehension of a
 “ relapse, or some new accident, ha-
 “ ving not the least suspicion of a
 “ flight, or desertion. When we
 “ came to the house, all the informa-
 “ tion, we could obtain from the ser-
 “ vants, was, that the horses were re-
 “ turned, without the coach, or com-
 “ pany. This raised in me suspicions
 “ of his dishonesty, and, without he-
 “ sitating, we rode off to London,
 “ and put up at an inn in the neigh-
 “ bourhood of Grosvenor-square. We
 “ immediately went out in search for
 “ Mr. S—, who, we were given to
 “ understand, was in Essex, and ex-

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"pected that week to be married to a
"farmer's daughter. I endeavoured
"to convince them, that he was not
"there, and hinted some things,
"which did not speak much in recom-
"mendation of his honour, and cha-
"racter: it was received with a loud
"laugh, so well established was Mr.
"S—'s reputation in the opinion of
"his neighbours, whose leaving of
"town, and disposing of his house,
"they lamented as a great loss, both
"to the poor, and to the trading peo-
"ple. After spending two or three
"days in town to no purpose, we re-
"turned back, full of grief, and vex-
"ation of heart. When we arrived,
"great was the joy of your mother,
"and brethren, at seeing those return
"safe, whom they feared to have
"been

“ been murdered. This joy was
 “ quickly succeeded by sorrow, when
 “ they observed that you was not
 “ with us; but greater their affliction;
 “ when we declared that we could not,
 “ after the most diligent enquiry and
 “ search, procure the least intelligence
 “ concerning you, and the ill treat-
 “ ment that we had received.

“ When I reflected on the designed
 “ villainy, your lost virtue, and the
 “ dreadful consequences of it, infamy
 “ and disease, what curses and execra-
 “ tions did I pour on the author's head!
 “ How have I often wished, that you
 “ had perished before you had seen the
 “ light, that you had been crushed
 “ by death within your mother's
 “ womb, or that I could have plunged

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“a dagger in your breast, to have
“prevented your eternal shame, and
“my sorrow. Protect, O heaven!
“was my constant prayer, a virtuous
“daughter from a villain's lust, or, if
“dishonoured, avenge her wrongs.”

A few years had passed, when one day, whilst relating some of my adventures to my sisters, which they frequently desired me to do, being in the little parlour, we were alarmed by a violent rap at the door. Soon after, a lady and gentleman, in deep mourning, were introduced by my mother, who, from the equipage attending them, and their polite behaviour, had the appearance of persons of fortune, and distinction.

We

We immediately rose up, paid our respects, and offered to retire, but the lady insisted on our staying. We accordingly sat down again, and the lady began the conversation, "Madam, (addressing my mother) if my information is right, you had an unfortunate daughter. I am sorry (seeing my mother endeavouring to conceal her tears) to revive your grief: Is she yet alive? Where can I meet with her?" To which I replied, observing my mother's confusion, "I am, madam, that unfortunate daughter you speak of."

Hearing this, the lady hastily rose from her seat, and, embracing me, said, "I congratulate you, miss, upon
" the

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“ the legacy bequeathed you, justly,
“ merited by the singular hardships you
“ have endured, and, I hope, will be
“ received as some kind of compensa-
“ tion and satisfaction for the injuries
“ done you by my husband.”

This surpris'd us all. But the lady
proceeded, saying, “ Mr. S—,
“ whom you are too well acquainted
“ with, was my husband, he was
“ taken suddenly ill of a fever, and
“ struck with deep remorse for his
“ baseness towards you, hath, with
“ my consent and approbation, left
“ you, in his will, ten thousand
“ pounds, and intreated that you
“ would accept it, as it was meant by
“ him, for a token of his sincere re-
“ pentance for the wrongs done you.”

eds ”

Without

Without waiting for a reply, Mrs. S— put into my lap a parcel of bank notes, amounting to the sum mentioned.

At this interval of silence my father came into the room, when the lady, after having informed him, who she was, was so obliging to repeat what had passed, adding, that Mr. S— never enjoyed any peace of mind after the interview at the barn: he took no pleasure in his favourite diversion of hunting, and avoided the company and conversation of his most intimate friends. His countenance was fallen, his vivacity gone, and he seemed to give himself up to solitude, and melancholly. He usually composed himself after dinner on a couch: in these short slumbers, he would frequently
start,

start, and groan, which I attributed to weakness, occasioned by his indisposition. The day preceding his fever, which put an end to his life, he had scarce lain down an hour, before he cried out, " I know thee — Begone —
 " Trouble me not — Thy injuries
 " are" — Here I awaked him, when he appeared in the greatest terroure of mind, saying to him, " What means
 " this confusion? Why these broken
 " sentences?" He answered me, fainting and trembling, " Leave me
 " to myself; yet I dare not trust my-
 " self alone; sorrow lies heavy here,
 " [putting his hand to his breast] lead
 " me to my chamber; death I find to
 " be approaching, and I will disclose
 " such villainy, if thy pious and
 " chaste ear can bear to hear it, which
 " will

“ will convince you that there hath been
 “ too much reason for this sadness.”
 When in the agonies of death, he cried,
 “ O! that I could see her before I
 “ died, and obtain her pardon, then
 “ would my troubled soul be at rest!”
 He said no more, fetched a deep sigh,
 and died.

This affecting account of his death
 drew tears from all our eyes, and a so-
 lemn silence ensued. At the last my
 father spoke, “ May the Almighty
 “ accept his repentance, and the hor-
 “ rours of his guilty conscience be ad-
 “ mitted for a sufficient punishment
 “ of his crimes.” This scene of sor-
 row being over, Mrs. S— took her
 leave, with an assurance of a lasting
 friendship between the families.

R

Mrs.

Mrs. S— was a polite, well bred, sensible lady. Her education had been different from that of females in general. She could read a book in Homer, with the same ease as she could work a piece of point, and translate an ode of Anacreon with the same spirit, as she could sing an Italian air. She was a proof, of what the pride of the other sex will never own, that the female mind, if properly cultivated, is capable of equal attainments with their lords. It was difficult to say, whether she excelled most in the accomplishments of the mind, or person. Her knowledge did not make her, what it frequently doth the other sex, proud, confident, and overbearing, for she was of an obliging and condescending temper,

temper, and rather seemed desirous of learning, than dictating, where her superiority of understanding was acknowledged. She was somewhat singular in works of charity; to avoid ostentation, she never admitted any application, but privately enquired after real objects, whom, when discovered, she as privately relieved, insomuch that she was looked upon not to be the most charitable lady in the neighbourhood, even by those whom her secret bounty had made happy. She was equally careful to prevent applications, as to avoid acknowledgments, and her only thanks for her goodness, was the approbation of her conscience.

About a week after this incident, Mrs. S— paid us a visit with the same

gentleman, Sir Robert B—, who was her only brother, in possession of a large estate, a modest, discreet, young gentleman, brought up liberally, and untainted with the fashionable vices, pride, luxury, gaming, keeping, &c. which, in these times, distinguish the gentleman from the clown. After visiting, and revisiting, each other, for a twelvemonth, in this friendly manner, and spending in turn a week at each others manor, Sir Robert and Mrs. S— walking one morning with me in the garden, Mrs. S— left us at the turn of a walk.

Sir Robert embracing the opportunity, which his sister's absence afforded him, of disclosing his passion, addressed me in these words: " Since I
 " have

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“ have had the pleasure, miss, of your
“ acquaintance, I have contracted
“ something more than a mere respect
“ for your person. I am convinced,
“ that your merit may entitle you to
“ one of higher rank, but I will be
“ confident to say, that no one shall
“ endeavour more to deserve your
“ affection, than myself. The con-
“ nection, I have proposed to you, is
“ entirely agreeable to my sister, who
“ desires it.” Here he stopt, ex-
pecting my answer with some uneasi-
ness and anxiety, fearful, as I had
somewhat reddened, that the address
was disapproved of.

After a little pause, I replied,
“ That though I doubted not of the
“ sincerity of his passion, and that his
R 3 “ design

“ design was honourable, he must ex-
 “ cuse a positive answer in this affair,
 “ for I should submit my will to be di-
 “ rected and governed by that of my
 “ parents; whose consent obtained,
 “ their would be no objection on my
 “ part, to the honour he intended to
 “ do our family.” This answer was
 received by him with great polite-
 ness.

The dinner bell ringing, we walked
 towards the house, and, in the way,
 meeting with my father, he left me,
 and turned aside with him, and disco-
 vered the secret of his love, also what
 he had said to me, and the answer re-
 turned by me. “ Son, said my fa-
 “ ther, for by that name, from this time,
 “ I shall call thee, thou hast my con-
 “ sent.

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“ sent. I have observed with pleasure
“ your affection for my daughter, and
“ resolved within myself, if it was
“ sincere, that nothing should be want-
“ ing in me, to contribute to your
“ happiness. Come, fir, give me
“ your hand.”

Meeting with me in the hall, “ Stop
“ a minute, daughter, said my father,
“ let me present you with a rarity,
“ that I have just now met with in our
“ garden.” “ What, fir, is that? I
“ replied; for I think there is not any
“ thing rare in it.” “ No flower,
“ my dear, I do assure you, said my
“ father, for that soon fadeth, wi-
“ thereth, and perisheth, but that,
“ whose goodness will never fade,
“ wither, and perish, an honest and
“ worthy

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“ worthy man, an husband for you,
“ and a son for me.” This said, he
presented Sir Robert to me, who,
saluting me with great warmth, said,
“ Now is my happiness in this life
“ completed, having not one with
“ more left to be answered.”

Scarce was the salutation over,
when my father received the following
note.

“ Mrs. S—’s compliments to Mr.
“ D—, and desires the favour of a
“ few minutes private conversation in
“ the summer-house, at the bottom of
“ the garden.”

My father, wondering at the singu-
larity of the invitation, left us in the
hall,

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hall, and went to meet Mrs. S—at the place appointed. Sir Robert, observing me to be somewhat uneasy, said, “ I do assure you, my dear, my
“ sister’s designs are honourable; her
“ intention, in this conversation, is to
“ increase the family connection, by
“ a proposal to your father, of marrying your eldest brother, they having for a long time, unknown to
“ any of the family, entertained an
“ esteem for each other: and when,
“ as you thought, they were amusing
“ themselves, in the garden, with
“ gathering of flowers, they were
“ discoursing of love, and contriving
“ how to procure the consent of your
“ father. If you please, we will walk
“ into the back parlour, where your
“ brother is, expecting, with great
“ anxiety

" anxiety and fear, the issue of, this
 " conference in the summer-house,
 " and he will confirm to you the truth
 " of what I have now declared."

We had not been longer in the par-
 lour, than was sufficient for my satis-
 faction, when my father and Mrs. S—
 came in, whose looks shewed, that
 matters were settled to the mutual satis-
 faction of both parties. My father,
 addressing himself to my brother, said,
 " Young man, this lady hath asked
 " you in marriage; let it be your care
 " to preserve the good opinion she en-
 " tertains of you. As you could not
 " have flattered yourself with being
 " connected with a lady of such worth
 " and fortune, endeavour, by your
 " behaviour, to merit the one, and,
 " by

“ by a tender and affectionate regard,
 “ to deserve the other.” My brother
 bowed, and Mrs. S— advancing to-
 wards him, they embraced each other
 with that tenderness of affection, which
 sufficiently convinced us of the reality
 and sincerity of their passion.

After dinner we retired to the back
 parlour, where we fixed the Thursday
 following for the solemnization of the
 marriage, which was to be at the same
 church. Mrs. S— and her brother
 remained at my father's, sending to
 town, by an express, for what things
 were necessary. The affair was now
 no secret in the village, and every one
 rejoiced at the happy union. A grand
 entertainment was prepared, to which
 the neighbouring gentry were invited;
 and

and that the poor might be partakers with us, in our happiness. two hundred pounds were ordered to be distributed amongst them, and sheep and oxen, with strong beer and punch, were given to the villagers.

We went to church, amidst the prayers, praises, and acclamations, of a thousand people, who were assembled on this joyful occasion. Open house was kept for the gentry for a month, which was spent with the greatest mirth and festivity. We continued about six months at my father's, and then took our leave, each retiring to his respective manor, with the promise of meeting together annually every Christmas, so long as our parents lived, at the farmhouse. Tears of joy and sorrow were shed

shed by every person in the village at our departure, many of whom accompanied us some miles on our journey.

A few months after our ~~return~~ ^{return}ment, Sir Robert was called upon the grand jury for the county ; he attended the assize, and stayed in court to hear the trial of a poor old man, who stood charged with the murder of his companion. When the prisoner was brought to the bar, his age, grey hairs, and decent deportment moved the court to pity him. The prisoner, addressing himself to the bench, said, “ My
 “ lord, I am a weak, ignorant man,
 “ and unacquainted with law, I there-
 “ fore humbly intreat of your lordship,
 “ the favour of having council to ad-
 S “ vise,

“wife, and assist me.” The judge immediately applied to one Mr. R—, saying, “Brother R—, you are a known friend of the distressed, this old man must be your client.” He answered, “My lord, I am ready and willing to undertake his cause, from your lordship’s recommendation, and from a principle of humanity, though our profession, I must confess, are not very fond of such clients.” Then, turning to the prisoner, he said, “Take courage, old man, your countenance seems too honest for a villain.”

In the course of the trial, circumstances were strong against him: the deceased and he left the farmer’s house together; the deceased was found murdered

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murdered the next morning, having his throat cut; the prisoner's hands and shirt were stained with blood; a pen-knife, which he confessed to be his property, was found in the yard bloody; the buckles and a little bag, having the name of the deceased upon it, were taken out of his pocket.

“ Notwithstanding, said his council,
“ these circumstances are very strong;
“ I believe the prisoner to be innocent.
“ Not to mention, what hath been
“ proved to the court, that the greatest
“ harmony and friendship subsisted
“ between the two old men, the pri-
“ soner's character from gentlemen of
“ the first rank, whom he hath had
“ the honour of serving, of a tender
“ and humane disposition: Would he

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“ not, had he been the thief and murderer, have attempted to escape?
“ Would he have suffered himself to
“ have been taken fast asleep? Would
“ the sight of his friend have so affected
“ him, to have thrown him into strong
“ convulsions for three hours? Would
“ he”— Here [a young man, who stood by the prisoner, having taken out his watch, to tell him the hour] the prisoner interrupted, “ My lord, I
“ have a favour to ask of your lordship, that this young man may be
“ permitted to acquaint the court,
“ how he came by his watch, for it is
“ the watch of my deceased friend,
“ whose name is under the lining of
“ the case, and the seal, affixed to the
“ chain, I gave him.” The council called for the watch, and taking out the

the lining, found an engraving, with the following words, "The legacy of James D'anvil, Esq. to his servant, Thomas Goodfellow, for his honest and faithful services." The young man, being interrogated, how he came by the watch, answered, that he bought it of William Thompson, servant to the prosecutor, and the principal evidence against the prisoner, for five guineas, whose receipt, and the silversmith's, of whom Thompson bought it, he had.

Thompson was immediately called for, and, being fetched from a public house, when he came into court, was asked, if he knew that watch, and to whom he had sold it? He answered, with great assurance, that he bought it

in Lombard-street, of one Mr. Feignwell, a silversmith, for five guineas, about six months ago, (four months before the murder was committed) and he had sold it to that young man. The receipts being compared, the council soon discovered that they were the same hand-writing, and a gentleman in court, whose residence was in Lombard-street, declared upon oath, that he knew of no such person for thirty years past. After several questions put to Thompson, to which he gave evasive and contradictory answers, the council for the prisoner rose up, and directly charged him with the robbery and murder, moved the court that he might be taken into custody, and added, that he was under no doubt of proving him to be the thief, and murderer.

murderer. This declaration, expressed with some warmth, so much affected and intimidated Thompson, that he confessed his guilt, and the various circumstances attending it. The old man was honourably acquitted, and a collection made for him at the request of Mr. R—.

Sir Robert afterwards dined with the judge, who spoke very respectfully of Mr. R—'s abilities, and great humanity, mentioning several cases of the like nature with the old man's, particularly one of an unfortunate and miserable young woman, who had been tried for an incendiary. How pleased was Sir Robert to hear the name of the protector and defender of my innocence,

cence, whom we had endeavoured to find out.

After dinner Sir Robert took his leave of the judge, and went to seek for Mr. R—, whom he found at the tavern with the grand jury. After some compliments, they entered very freely into conversation, which was so agreeable to Sir Robert, that he made Mr. R— promise to spend a day or two at his manor, when he had finished the circuit. When Sir Robert came home, “ Well, my dear, (said he) I
 “ have joyful news to tell thee; the
 “ old man is honourably acquitted,
 “ and by the means of him who was
 “ your deliverer, who hath promised
 “ to spend a day or two with us.”
 “ Joyful and welcome news indeed,
 “ my

“ my dear !” I replied. “ O how do
 “ I long to see the good man, and on
 “ my knees to thank, and bless him !
 “ We must —” “ I know your
 “ meaning, said Sir Robert, we
 “ should, when in our power, shew
 “ our gratitude by deeds as well as
 “ words.” “ You understand me
 “ well, sir, said I, and I shall leave
 “ the acting part, which I am sensible
 “ will be a pleasure, to you.”

The long wished for day came, and,
 after breakfast, Sir Robert rode out to
 meet my worthy friend. He returned,
 about twelve, very uneasy, not having
 seen, nor heard any thing concerning
 him. We went to dinner, which we
 had deferred, expecting every moment
 his appearance, being reckoned punc-
 tual.

tual in his engagements, and exact in the performance of his promises. In this uneasiness, we observed a servant, riding up full speed to the gate, and ringing the bell, soon after the master appeared, when Sir Robert, knowing him to be Mr. R—, rose immediately, and ran himself to open the gate.

When Mr. R— had alighted, he was introduced into the parlour, where I stood, with the utmost expectation, to salute him, with tears of joy and gratitude.

I went up to him, and embraced him in the most affectionate manner. Upon which, turning to Sir Robert, he said, “Doth your lady salute every visitor in this manner? Surely she hath
“mistaken”

" mistaken me for her husband."
 " You will cease to wonder, sir, said
 " I, at this behaviour, when I acquaint
 " you, that to you I owe the preserva-
 " tion of my life. The miserable,
 " loathsome wretch, whom your good-
 " ness, in pleading her cause, saved
 " from an infamous death, when tried
 " for an incendiary, now stands before
 " you with an heart full of gratitude."
 " And, sir, said Sir Robert, inter-
 " rupting me, as to the preservation
 " of that life, I am indebted for all
 " my happiness, I must insist upon
 " your acceptance of this small note,
 " [a thousand pounds] small in com-
 " parison of your merit, and the ser-
 " vice done me, for the prisoner's
 " fee."

Mr.

Mr. R — stood amazed, and confounded, at these extraordinary incidents. Recovering himself from the surprise, he replied, “ Madam, the service, I then rendered you, proceeded from that inward feeling I have always for persons in distress, whom to relieve, when I have the power and opportunity, either by an alms, or, as was your case, pleading their cause, is the only sensible pleasure that I enjoy. The satisfaction, I now receive from this event, is not, sir, from your generosity, nor, madam, from your gratitude; but the reflection of having preserved the life of so amiable and valuable a woman, whose piety doth honour to religion, and whose example

“ ample is an ornament to her sex. In
 “ having saved your life, madam, I
 “ find myself the happy instrument of
 “ assisting and supporting a number of
 “ poor industrious families, through
 “ that charitable and beneficent spirit
 “ you are daily exerting; the orphan,
 “ the widow, and the destitute, find-
 “ ing in you a true and warm friend.
 “ This, madam, which is the pride
 “ of you, and your worthy husband,
 “ is held a meanness with too many of
 “ your fortune and distinction; who,
 “ instead of lessening, increase, the
 “ necessities of the indigent, by luxu-
 “ ry, and extravagance.”

Mr. R— was here interrupted by
 the servants bringing in a dish of fish.
 Sir Robert, addressing himself to Mr.

T

R—,

R—, said, “ Your profession, fir, is
 “ in a flourishing and prosperous state.
 “ I mention it with concern, not plea-
 “ sure, for the mischiefs it hath pro-
 “ duced, or the distress it hath brought
 “ upon mankind.” “ I little expect-
 “ ed, replied Mr. R—, such a re-
 “ flection from a gentleman of Sir Ro-
 “ bert’s politeness and understanding.
 “ The law, fir, is the grand bulwark
 “ of the subjects rights, liberty, and
 “ property. Let the vulgar be satis-
 “ fied; cancel it. What will be the
 “ consequence? Violence, slavery,
 “ and tyranny. What protection
 “ would the poor man have, from the
 “ insolence and oppression of his
 “ wealthy and powerful neighbour?
 “ Is it right to leave the honest and
 “ industrious a continual prey to cheats
 “ and

“ and sharpeners, without any remedy?
 “ Do you think, Sir Robert, that you
 “ would, as now, be secure in the
 “ comfortable and peaceable enjoy-
 “ ment of your estate? No pro-
 “ fession is to be censured for abuses.
 “ If an empiric administers a poison
 “ for a cordial, is medicine of no use?
 “ The law makes not rogues, but pu-
 “ nishes them: it distresses not, but
 “ relieves, and protects, the good. I
 “ should be glad to see men so honest,
 “ that our courts of justice might be
 “ shut up, which, from the multitude
 “ of causes before them, might be
 “ kept open day and night. We need
 “ not seek for clients: the pride,
 “ avarice, and luxury of the age, fur-
 “ nish the profession with more suits,
 “ than they can properly manage. If

“ men would be content with their
 “ own, live consistent with their sta-
 “ tion, and not indulge in expences,
 “ which neither their fortune, nor in-
 “ dustry, can support, Westminster-
 “ hall would be very cool. The fault
 “ lies with yourselves, and your cen-
 “ sure of the law is unjust.”

Whilst we were at dinner, a beggar
 came to the gate, to whom was given
 the usual relief. The man still conti-
 nuing at the gate, the servant was sent
 to know, what he particularly wanted.
 The servant returned, acquainting me,
 that he was very desirous of speaking to
 me in private. I ordered him to come
 in, and to have a dinner in the kit-
 chen.

Mr.

Mr. R— entertained us with so many pleasant stories, that had not Sir Robert refreshed my memory, the poor man would have been forgotten. “ If you please, my dear with Mr. R—’s permission, I will order him “ into the parlour.” The servant returned with the old man’s refusal, and his intreaty to speak with me in private. “ It is neither prudent, nor “ safe, madam, said Mr. R—, to “ comply with such request, for, being a stranger, (though his poverty “ doth not prove him to be a rogue, “ too many are so,) he is not entitled “ to such confidence.” “ I am of “ your opinion, said Sir Robert, and “ therefore (speaking to the servant) “ I insist upon his coming into the
T 3 “ parlour;

“ parlour; if he refuses, send him
“ away.”

When he came into the room, the sight of Mr. R— surprised him, and falling down, and embracing his knees, prayed to God, most fervently, to bless and preserve him, who had preserved his life from destruction. Mr. R— immediately recollected his client, and, taking him by the hand, lifted him up, saying, “ Now, old man, I
“ have one request to make in return,
“ which, your obligation to me being
“ so great as you say, you must not
“ deny me, What private business have
“ you with this lady?” “ Speak honestly, answered Sir Robert, for
“ there is not any thing, that you can
“ say, which I shall be ashamed of
“ hearing,

“hearing, or that lady afraid to
“hear.”

The poor fellow trembled, and begged, with tears, to be excused. When Mr. R—, not with his usual countenance of good nature, but with a kind of anger, said, “Look you, “old man, I insist on knowing immediately, what you have to say to “this lady, or I shall look upon you to “be a designing knave, and will certainly have you punished, for basely “attempting to disturb the peace of a “worthy family.”

This threat accomplished, what intreaty could not. “Behold then, “madam, [falling on his knees] your “footman, who, for the relief afforded
“ed

“ ed you, in that distress, which even
 “ to this present time I think of with
 “ sorrow, lost his place, and ever since
 “ hath met with a series of misfortunes,
 “ which would have terminated, had it
 “ not been for the interposition of that
 “ honourable gentleman, in an igno-
 “ minious death.”

Sir Robert, who knew all my histo-
 ry, was highly pleased at the reluctance
 shewn by the old man to discover the
 truth, and Mr. R— commended his
 prudence in the affair. Sir Robert,
 smiling, raised him up, and, ringing
 the bell, ordered the servant to provide
 him with a suit of cloaths, and to have
 a bed made up for him.

When

When he was gone, " Well, my
 " dear, said Sir Robert, the relief he
 " afforded, however injurious it proved
 " to you both, was well intended, and
 " therefore should have its reward.
 " A tenant of mine is lately dead,
 " who was possessed of a small farm,
 " about sixty pounds a year; in this
 " farm, my dear, I intend to fix him,
 " which will afford him a comfortable
 " subsistence for the remainder of his
 " life." I was delighted with this
 instance of Sir Robert's love towards
 me, in rewarding the goodness of a
 grateful servant.

The week being ended, Mr. R—
 took his leave, whom we accompanied
 some part of his journey to town, ha-
 ving

ving engaged his word to visit us, whenever he came into the country, and his business would permit. He parted from us, with wishing us length of days, an uninterrupted continuance of our present happiness, and a proper use of those advantages, which, through the good providence of God, I was in possession of.

On our return home, through a back lane, near our dwelling house, we overtook a poor creature, with one child at her back, and two walking by her side. Sir Robert stopped the chariot, and ordered the servant to enquire, from whence she came, and who she was. She answered him, That she was an unfortunate woman, and had lived in credit and reputation, but was

now

now reduced to the greatest distress, through the folly and misconduct of her husband, who, having squandered away his substance in drinking and gaming, and being deeply in debt, had deserted her, and gone abroad; that she came from London, and was going to his relations in Essex, to see, if they would put her into some way of business, to enable her to provide for her helpless and destitute children. By this time we were at home, and, having alighted, Sir Robert bid the servant to take the woman and her children into the kitchen, and to let them have whatever they wanted. We had scarce been seated five minutes, before a servant came in, and said, the woman would not stay. Sir Robert replied, " You have not, I hope, used her ill? "
" her

“ her poverty may have been her misfortune, not her fault.” The servant answered, “ The woman, sir, hath received no abuse, nor insult, from any of the servants; she asked, whose house this was, and, being informed, to the surprise of us all, she rose up in a hurry, and seemingly in great uneasiness, and would not be prevailed upon, by any means, to stay to take the least refreshment.”

Sir Robert ordered the servant to fetch her back again immediately; then, turning to me, said, “ What can this behaviour mean ?” I replied, “ My curiosity to know, is not less than yours.” The servant finding intreaties useless, employed threats, which brought her to a compliance. When she came into the parlour, she
fainted

fainted away. After a short interval she recovered; when Sir Robert civilly requested to know the reason of her leaving his house so abruptly, and in such confusion. “Is my name, or
 “ person, so terrible to frighten you
 “ away?” She answered, “Excuse
 “ me, worthy sir, an answer, and
 “ permit me to go away.” “Good
 “ woman, said I, be not afraid to
 “ speak. It is a pleasure to Sir Ro-
 “ bert to comfort and assist persons in
 “ trouble and distress.” She replied,
 “When I reflect upon my former
 “ wickedness, madam, I may justly
 “ fear, what it is in your power to
 “ take, revenge. The injury I did
 “ you —” “Me, good woman?”
 “Assure me, sir, upon your honour,
 “ that you will neither detain, nor
 U “punish

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“punish me, and I will declare the
 “truth: forgiveness I ask not, because
 “I deserve it not.” Sir Robert having
 assured her, upon his word, of her
 liberty, she, turning to me, said,
 “Madam, are not you the daughter
 “of Mr. S. D—?” I replied, “Yes.”
 “Do you remember — Remember!
 “you can never forget, the vile and
 “profligate sister of Mr. S—?” Here
 she stopped. To whom I answered,
 “Art thou that base woman? You
 “might indeed reasonably fear my
 “resentment: but your troubled mind
 “is affliction and punishment enough,
 “and may heaven, as I sincerely do,
 “forgive thee.” “Though you
 “merit no favour from me, said Sir
 “Robert, for your children’s sake,
 “who are innocent of your crimes,
 “you

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“ you shall receive a proper relief.
“ You see, continued Sir Robert, that
“ virtue, however severe its distresses
“ are at first, will, at the last, meet
“ with its reward, as in the case of this
“ lady; and that vice, though prosper-
“ ous and successful for a time, will,
“ as you now sensibly experience,
“ suffer in the end.”

U 2 THE

THE CONCLUSION.

Experience, ye fair, the severest master, taught me the worth of virtue, which you, from my cost, may learn to prize, and value. Let no specious pretence of love, nor deluding promise of marriage, prevail with you to risk your innocence. If your lover is so in sincerity, and acts upon honour, he will avoid the least indelicacy; he will use no expression, that can raise even a blush, nor offer any rudeness, that might occasion a suspicion of a base intention. If he solicits any favours, beyond what pure and chaste love may grant, his passion is not love, it is lust. Let him swear in the most solemn manner,

manner, that he will not deceive you, believe him not: if you do, when the desire is gratified, desertion follows, and his pleasure is your misery. The credulous Calista had a perjured Lothario; let her fate, with mine, convince you, that when men swear to be honest, they purpose to act the part of villains. When they vow, with caution hear, but never trust them; for be assured, that he who attempts to violate your honour, can have no honour of his own. The man, who means well, will not designedly behave ill; and he that solicits you to an unlawful compliance, by pleading the warmth of his affection, is certainly base at heart, and hath none other design, than to delude, and seduce you. If you yield to the solicitation,

you will quickly find the fond swain to be changed into the loose libertine, and aversion and distast succeed love and enjoyment. Wretchedness ensues. Your acquaintance, for their own sake, must shun you, if you do not, from a sense of shame and guilt, avoid them, and your relations will treat you with contempt and neglect. Few such parents, like to mine, are to be found, who would lament, commiserate, pardon, the indiscretion, and folly. Thus you will spend the remainder of your days in infamy, be consumed with disease, or perish through want. Remember, that the surrender of your virtue is a crime, that no sorrow, no repentance, can atone for, and expiate, with the base, perfidious, betrayers of our beauty and innocence, nor with
the

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the modest and virtuous of your own sex. Meditate on these plain truths, and observe them, if you would be free from the severe reproaches of shame and guilt. Conscious worth, not sensual gratification, is happiness. Good is not from without, but from within. No enjoyment whatever will be a compensation for lost virtue. It is the mind, which gives the lustre to the beautiful form, and innocence renders it valuable. Cultivate the one, and preserve the other pure and untainted, and you will be happy.

F I N I S.



ERRATA.

Page 9. Line 5. read *fell* instead of *sell*.

Ditto, Line 8. read *intemperance* instead of *intemperanees*.

Page 40. Line 14. read *suspicion* instead of *suspitions*.

Page 49. Line 2. read *for* the day, not *of*.

Ditto, Line 7. read *opportunity* instead of *opportunities*.

Page 77. Line 9. read *your* mistress.

Ditto, Line 10. read *guineas* instead of *guinees*.

Page 96. last Line but one, read *proposing* instead of
purposing.

Page 107. Line 4. read of *his*, not *my* affection.

Page 166. Line 15. after *order*, insert *I*.

Page 174. Line 13. read *people*.

Page 181. Line 5. read *die* instead of *died*.